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104th Congress, 2d Session - -

# REPORT ON ACTIVITIES DURING THE 104TH CONGRESS

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



January 2, 1997.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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36-637

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 $<sup>{}^*\</sup>mathrm{See}$  footnote after subcommittee assignments.

# LETTER OF SUBMITTAL

House of Representatives, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, Washington, DC, January 2, 1997.

HON. ROBIN H. CARLE, Clerk of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR Ms. CARLE: Pursuant to Rule XI, clause 1(d), of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I herewith submit to the House a report of the activities of the Committee on Agriculture during the 104th Congress.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

PAT ROBERTS, Chairman.

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REPORT 104–881

# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE ON ACTIVITIES DURING THE 104TH CONGRESS

January 2, 1997.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. ROBERTS, from the Committee on Agriculture, submitted the following

#### REPORT

In accordance with rule XI, clause 1(d), of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Agriculture reports herewith on its activities during the 104th Congress.

I. Summary of Organization, Jurisdiction, and Oversight Plan of the Committee on Agriculture

#### A. ORGANIZATION

On January 4, 1995, the House of Representatives passed H. Res. 11 and H. Res. 12, which established the total authorized membership of the Committee on Agriculture for the 104th Congress at 49, with a party division of 27 Republicans and 22 Democrats. Among the Committee members were 10 Representatives who were serving their first terms (Chenoweth, Hostettler, Bryant, Latham, Cooley, Foley, Chambliss, LaHood, Funderburk, and Baldacci).

The Committee was organized on January 11, 1995 into 5 subcommittees, 3 of which were assigned jurisdiction over major agricultural commodities and 2 of which dealt with various related agricultural operations. The 5 subcommittees were constituted as follows:

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

(Ratio includes ex officio Members 2)

#### COMMODITY SUBCOMMITTEES

#### GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES (RATIO 11-9)

#### BILL BARRETT, Nebraska, Chairman

BILL EMERSON, Missouri, Vice Chairman <sup>3</sup> LARRY COMBEST, Texas, Vice Chairman JOHN A. BOEHNER, Ohio NICK SMITH, Michigan RICHARD H. BAKER, Louisiana TOM LATHAM, Iowa WES COOLEY, Oregon SAXBY CHAMBLISS, Georgia FRANK D. LUCAS, Oklahoma <sup>4</sup> Vacancy

CHARLES W. STENHOLM, Texas, Ranking Minority Member DAVID MINGE, Minnesota EARL POMEROY, North Dakota BERNIE G. THOMPSON, Mississippi CHARLIE ROSE, North Carolina HAROLD L. VOLKMER, Missouri CALVIN M. DOOLEY, California ED PASTOR, Arizona

#### LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY (RATIO 8-6)

#### STEVE GUNDERSON, Wisconsin, Chairman 5

JOHN A. BOEHNER, Ohio, Vice Chairman BOB GOODLATTE, Virginia RICHARD W. POMBO, California NICK SMITH, Michigan FRANK D. LUCAS, Oklahoma WES COOLEY, Oregon HAROLD L. VOLKMER, Missouri, Ranking Minority Member COLLIN C. PETERSON, Minnesota CALVIN M. DOOLEY, California EARL F. HILLIARD, Alabama TIM HOLDEN, Pennsylvania

#### RISK MANAGEMENT AND SPECIALTY CROPS (RATIO 11-9)

#### THOMAS W. EWING, Illinois, Chairman

JOHN T. DOOLITTLE, California RICHARD W. POMBO, California TERRY EVERETT, Alabama RON LEWIS, Kentucky ED BRYANT, Tennessee MARK ADAM FOLEY, Florida SAXBY CHAMBLISS, Georgia DAVID FUNDERBURK, North Carolina <sup>7</sup>

LARRY COMBEST, Texas, Vice Chairman

CHARLIE ROSE, North Carolina, Ranking Minority Member EVA M. CLAYTON, North Carolina SCOTTY BAESLER, Kentucky KAREN L. THURMAN, Florida SANFORD D. BISHOP, Jr., Georgia SAM FARR, California ED PASTOR, Arizona Vacancy <sup>6</sup>

# OPERATIONAL SUBCOMMITTEES

#### DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS, NUTRITION, AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE (RATIO 13-11)

#### BOB GOODLATTE, Virginia, Chairman<sup>8</sup>

WAYNE ALLARD, Colorado, Vice Chairman THOMAS W. EWING, Illinois CHARLES T. CANADY, Florida KEN CALVERT, California JOHN N. HOSTETTLER, Indiana ED BRYANT, Tennessee TOM LATHAM, Iowa MARK ADAM FOLEY, Florida RAY LAHOOD, Illinois MICHAEL D. CRAPO, Idaho 10 DAVID FUNDERBURK, North Carolina 11

GARY A. CONDIT, California Ranking Minority Member
GEORGE E. BROWN, Jr., California CYNTHIA A. McKINNEY, Georgia 9
EARL F. HILLIARD, Alabama
SCOTTY BAESLER, Kentucky
KAREN L. THURMAN, Florida
SANFORD D. BISHOP, Jr., Georgia
BENNIE G. THOMPSON, Mississippi
SAM FARR, California
JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI, Maine
Vacancy 12

#### RESOURCE CONSERVATION, RESEARCH, AND FORESTRY (RATIO 13-11)

#### WAYNE ALLARD, Colorado, Chairman

STEVE GUNDERSON, Wisconsin, Vice ChairmanBILL BARRETT, Nebraska JOHN T. DOOLITTLE, California RICHARD W. POMBO, California NICK SMITH, Michigan FRANK D. LUCAS, Oklahoma RON LEWIS, Kentucky MICHAEL D. CRAPO, Idaho HELEN CHENOWETH, Idaho JOHN N. HOSTETTLER, Indiana RAY LAHOOD, Illinois

TIM JOHNSON, South Dakota Ranking Minority Member JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI, Maine GEORGE E. BROWN, JR., California CHARLES W. STENHOLM, Texas GARY A. CONDIT, California COLLIN C. PETERSON, Minnesota EVA M. CLAYTON, North Carolina DAVID MINGE, Minnesota EARL POMEROY, North Dakota TIM HOLDEN, Pennsylvania

- <sup>1</sup> Elected to the Committee on August 2, 1996.
- <sup>2</sup>Pat Roberts, Chairman, and E (Kika) de la Garza, Ranking Minority Member, were exofficio members of all Subcommittees
- <sup>3</sup> Deceased June 22, 1996, which caused a vacancy on the Subcommittee.
- <sup>4</sup>Elected to Subcommittee, April 4, 1995.
- <sup>5</sup> Appointed Full Committee Vice Chairman on July 22, 1996.
- <sup>6</sup>Vacancy was created in the Subcommittee on September 12, 1996.
- <sup>7</sup> Appointed to Subcommittee, September 12, 1996, see footnote 4 above.

  <sup>8</sup> Appointed Subcommittee Chairman, July 22, 1996 succeeding the deceased Bill Emerson. <sup>9</sup>Resigned from Committee February 29, 1996 which created a vacancy on the Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture.
  - <sup>10</sup> Appointed to Subcommittee, April 4, 1995.
  - <sup>11</sup> Appointed to Subcommittee, September 12, 1996.
  - 12 Created after the resignation of Cynthia A. McKinney.

#### B. COMMITTEE JURISDICTION

Under Rules adopted by the House of Representatives for the 104th Congress, the Committee on Agriculture's (hereinafter also referred to as Committee) jurisdiction (See Rule X, clause 1 of the Rules of the House of Representatives) extended to-

- (1) Adulteration of seeds, insect pests, and protection of birds and animals in forest reserves.
  - (2) Agriculture generally.
  - (3) Agricultural and industrial chemistry.
  - (4) Agricultural colleges and experiment stations.
  - (5) Agricultural economics and research.
  - (6) Agricultural education extension services.
- (7) Agricultural production and marketing and stabilization of prices of agricultural products, and commodities (not including distribution outside of the United States).
  - (8) Animal industry and diseases of animals.
  - (9) Commodities exchanges.
  - (10) Crop insurance and soil conservation.
  - (11) Dairy industry.
  - (12) Entomology and plant quarantine.
  - (13) Extension of farm credit and farm security.
- (14) Inspection of livestock, and poultry, and meat products, and seafood and seafood products.
- (15) Forestry in general, and forest reserves other than those created from the public domain.
  - (16) Human nutrition and home economics.
  - (17) Plant industry, soils, and agricultural engineering.
  - (18) Rural electrification.
  - (19) Rural development.

(20) Water conservation related to activities of the Depart-

ment of Agriculture.1

The revised edition of the Rules and Manual of the House of Representatives for the 104th Congress (House Document No. 103–342) provides the following concerning the Committee on Agriculture: <sup>2</sup>

This Committee was established in 1820 (IV, 4149). In 1880 the subject of forestry was added to its jurisdiction, and the Committee was conferred authority to receive estimates of and to report appropriations (IV, 4149). However, on July 1, 1920, authority to report appropriations for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (hereinafter also referred to as USDA) was trans-

ferred to the Committee on Appropriations (VII, 1860).

The basic form of the present jurisdictional statement was made effective January 2, 1947, as a part of the Legislative Reorganization of Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 812). Subparagraph (7) was altered by the 93d Congress, effective January 3, 1975, to include jurisdiction over agricultural commodities (including the Commodity Credit Corporation) while transferring jurisdiction over foreign distribution and nondomestic production of commodities to the Committee on International Relations (H. Res. 988, 93d Cong., Oct 8, 1974, p. 34470). Nevertheless, the Committee has retained a limited jurisdiction over measures to release CCC stocks for such foreign distribution (Sept. 14, 1989, p. 20428). Previously unstated jurisdictions over commodities exchanges and rural development were codified effective January 3, 1975.

The 104th Congress consolidated the Committee's jurisdiction over food inspection to include inspection of seafood and seafood products, and added subparagraph (20) relating to

water conservation (sec. 202(a), H. Res. 6, Jan. 4 1995).

The Committee has had jurisdiction of bills for establishing and regulating the Department of Agriculture (IV, 4150), for inspection of livestock, poultry and their products, regulation of animal industry, diseases of animals (IV, 4154; VII, 1862), adulteration of seeds, insect pests, protection of birds and animals in forest reserves (IV, 4157; VII, 1870), the improvement of the breed of horses, even with the cavalry service in view (IV, 4158; VII, 1865).

The Committee, having charge of the general subject of forestry, has reported bills relating to timber, and forest reserves other than those created from the public domain (IV, 4160).

It has also exercised jurisdiction of bills relating to agricultural colleges and experiment stations (IV, 4152), incorporation of agricultural societies (IV, 4159), establishment of a highway commission (IV, 4153), to discourage fictitious and gambling transactions in farm products (IV, 4161; VII, 1861), and to regulate the transportation, sale and handling of dogs and cats intended for use in research and the licensing of animal research facilities (July 29, 1965, p. 18691).

<sup>1 &</sup>quot;Seafood and seafood products", item 14 and "water conservation related to activities of the Department of Agriculture" were added to Rule X, clause 1 in the 104th Congress (see House Document No. 103–342).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>References are to the volume and section of Hinds' (volumes I–V, e.g., IV, 500) and Cannon's (volumes VI–VIII, e.g., VI, 400) Precedents of the House of Representatives, and to the Congressional Record by date and page (e.g., January 3, 1953, p. 500).

The Committee has, by direct action of the House, secured jurisdiction of bills imposing an internal-revenue tax on oleomargine (IV, 4156), and has also had a general, but not exclusive jurisdiction of bills relating to imitation dairy products, manufacture of lard, etc. (IV, 4156; VII, 1869), and tax on cotton and grain futures (65th Cong.). But this jurisdiction of revenue matters is exceptional (IV, 4155).

The House referred the President's message dealing with the refinancing of farm-mortgage indebtedness to the Committee,

thus conferring jurisdiction (Apr. 4, 1933, p. 1209).

The Committee has exclusive jurisdiction over a bill relating solely to executive level positions in the Department of Agriculture (Mar. 2, 1976, p. 4958) and has jurisdiction over bills to develop land and water conservation programs on private and non-Federal lands (June 7, 1976, p. 16768). Some of the specific areas in which the Committee on Agriculture

exercises its jurisdiction or that have been created for the Commit-

tee by historical reference include:

(1) Public Law 480, Eighty-third Congress, the restoration, expansion, and development of foreign markets for United States agricultural products; and the effect of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (and the North American Free Trade Agreement), bilateral free trade agreements, and the European Community and other regional economic agreements and commodity marketing and pricing systems on United States agriculture.

(2) All matters relating to the establishment and develop-

ment of an effective Foreign Agricultural Service.

(3) Matters relating to rural development, including rural telephone companies, farm credit banks, nonfarm rural housing loans, rural water supply, rural flood control and water pollution control programs, and loans for rural firehouses, community facilities, and businesses.

(4) Production and use of energy from agricultural and for-

estry resources.

- (5) Matters relating to the development, use, and administration of the National Forests, including, but not limited to, development of a sound program for general public use of the National Forests consistent with watershed protection and sustained-yield timber management, study of the forest fire prevention and control policies and activities of the Forest Service and their relation to coordinated activities of other Federal, State, and private agencies; Forest Service land exchanges; and wilderness and similar use designations applied to National Forest land.
- (6) Price spreads of agricultural commodities between producers and consumers.
- (7) The formulation and development of improved programs for agricultural commodities; matters relating to the inspection, grading, and marketing of such commodities, including seafood; and food safety generally.

(8) Matters relating to trading in futures contracts for all commodities and similar instruments, including commodity op-

tions and commodity leverage contracts.

(9) The administration and operation of agricultural programs through State and county committees and the administrative policies and procedures relating to the selection, election, and operation of such committees.

(10) The administration and development of small watershed programs under Public Law 566, Eighty-third Congress, as amended; and the development of resource conservation and

development programs for rural areas.

(11) Programs of food assistance or distribution supported in whole or in part by funds of the Department of Agriculture, including but not limited to the food stamp program and the commodity distribution program.

(12) Aquaculture programs of the Department of Agriculture.

(13) Sugar legislation, including import control programs

that stabilize domestic prices.

(14) All matters relating to pesticides, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended, the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act of 1972, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Amendments of 1988, and the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996, including, but not limited to, the registration, marketing, and safe use of pesticides, groundwater contamination, and the coordination of the pesticide program under FIFRA with food safety programs.

(15) Agricultural research programs, including, but not limited to, the authorization of specific research projects and agri-

cultural biotechnology development efforts.

(16) All matters relating to the Commodity Credit Corpora-

tion Charter Act.

(17) Legislation relating to the control of the entry into the United States of temporary nonresident aliens for employment

in agricultural production.

(18) Legislation relating to the general operations and the Organic Act of the Department of Agriculture, the Commodity Credit Corporation, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Farm Credit Administration, Farm Credit System, Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, and Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

(19) Producer-funded research, promotion, and consumer and industry information programs for agricultural commodities.

(20) Legislation regarding reclamation water projects where the pricing of water delivered by such projects is affected by whether the water will be used in the production of a crop for which an acreage reduction program is in effect.

(21) Legislation regarding reclamation water projects for which the Secretary of Agriculture is required to make a determination regarding commodity availability prior to the determination of the price to be charged for the delivery of such project water

(22) Legislation establishing the level of fees charged by the Federal Government for the grazing of livestock on Federal

lands.

(23) Legislation governing the Federal regulation of transactions involving swaps contracts, hybrid financial instruments, and derivative securities and financial products.

(24) Legislation regarding the Federal Reserve Board with respect to its authority to regulate the establishment of appropriate levels of margin on stock index futures contracts.

The Committee also reviews and studies, on a continuing basis, the current and prospective application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of those laws, or parts of laws, the subject matter of which is within the jurisdiction of the Committee, and the organization and operation of the Federal agencies and entities having responsibilities in or for the administration and execution thereof. In addition, the Committee, along with other standing Committees of the House, has the function of reviewing and studying on a continuing basis the effect or probable effect of tax and other fiscal and monetary policies affecting subjects within their jurisdiction.

#### C. OVERSIGHT PLAN

The Committee on Agriculture met on February 7, 1995, and again on February 14, 1995 to fulfill the General Oversight Responsibility reporting requirements of Rule X 2(d)(1) of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

The following outline was prepared in consultation with the Ranking Member and approved by the Full Committee which was forwarded to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight on February 15, 1995:

# OVERSIGHT PLAN—HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, 104TH CONGRESS

#### 1995 Farm bill

The 1990 Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act is comprised of 25 separate titles encompassing virtually all of the Committee's jurisdiction. The majority of the authorities prescribed in the 1990 Act expire at the end of this year. Most of the 1995 Calendar will be consumed by Full Committee and subcommittee(s) review of the Act in detail to determine which authorities need to be renewed, reformed, or eliminated. Oversight reviews will be comprised of both field and Washington hearings.

# Food stamps (welfare reform)

Both the Full Committee and the Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee will be conducting extensive hearings on the Food Stamp Program relative to the Federal budget, distribution of benefits, enforcement actions to protect against fraud and abuse, and to consider reforms to ensure the program helps those truly in need while also ensuring the wisest use of taxpayers' contributions. In addition, the Committee and Subcommittee will be reviewing other domestic and foreign food assistance programs administered and/or funded by the Department of Agriculture.

# Property rights on agricultural lands

The Resource Conservation, Research, and Forestry Subcommittee will be looking into the impact of Federal regulations on the rights of owners to lawfully use legally acquired property. In addition, the Subcommittee expects to discuss the "takings" issue relative to its full range of meaning, from actual Federal acquisition to regulatory actions that restrict or prohibit lawful commercial activities that affect the value of the property.

# Agricultural and rural tax issues

The General Farm Commodities Subcommittee will conduct a hearing to review provisions of the Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act as it relates to agricultural producers, specifically on family farming and ranching operations. The Subcommittee expects to focus on capital gains and estate tax issues that impact rural areas.

# Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC)

The Risk Management and Specialty Crops Subcommittee will conduct hearings to review legislation to reauthorize the authorities and activities of the CFTC. Because of the scope of the 1992 Futures Trading Practices Act, the Committee's intention is to move forward with the reauthorization as expeditiously as possible. Those issues raised during initial reauthorization hearings, as well as the ongoing review of the 1992 Act's reforms, will be the focus of additional oversight activities throughout the next two years.

#### Meat and poultry food safety inspection

The Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Subcommittee will be conducting general oversight reviews/investigations relative to the Food Safety Inspection Service's administration of the meat and poultry inspection acts, and the Food and Drug Administration's food inspection activities, including seafood and seafood products inspection. It is also expected that the Full Committee will be considering reform proposals—coupled with the appropriate oversight—relative to the statutes governing U.S. meat and poultry inspection, the relationship between State and Federal inspection, and the interaction of U.S. food safety statutes relative to international trade.

In addition, the Committee expects to conduct oversight on the following general topics/issues. While Committee and Subcommittee leadership will be coordinating the oversight activities of these issues to make the best possible use of Committee resources, they are listed under auspices of the Full Committee.

# Factors affecting the agricultural economy

The Federal budget and its impact on U.S. agriculture, Federal farm programs, and future agricultural policies.

The agricultural economy in general.

U.S. agricultural trade, including review of GATT, NAFTA, USDA Foreign Agriculture Service, export assistance/development programs, foreign agricultural assistance (P.L. 480, etc.), export

credit programs, high value product exports, cargo preference ship-

ping requirements.

USDA Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) and related programs. In 1994, Congress enacted major changes to FCIC insurance programs to ensure against ad hoc disaster legislation and improve delivery of protection against weather-related crop losses. FCIC also is impacted by USDA restructuring activities. Oversight is needed to ensure both program function and reliable delivery to farmers is maintained.

Producer-funded Research and Promotion Programs (check-offs). These producer-funded programs have become increasingly popular as Federal research, market development, and export promotion resources have been cut. Because the funding mechanism is mandated by law, and because the Secretary of Agriculture is the regulator of these programs, oversight is valuable and necessary to en-

sure their sanctity and viability.

Commodity marketing systems, market prices (farm, wholesale, retail), and general agricultural economic factors. The Committee will conduct oversight on commodity marketing/pricing issues as anomalies in the retail price spread arise. One recent example occurred late in 1994 in the pork industry when the price differential between what hog producers and retailers were receiving for their products was substantially outside the norm, prompting a need to investigate.

#### Environmental statutes and related issues

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and related pesticide food safety issues.

Coastal Zone Management Act as related to agriculture.

Endangered Species Act as related to agriculture.

Safe Drinking Water Act relative to regulation of agricultural and rural enterprise activities.

Clean Water Act relative to regulation of agricultural and rural

enterprise activities.

USDA Forest Service's management of public lands under its jurisdiction, including reviews of grazing and other uses of these lands which require user to secure Forest Service permit. Current Forest Service administration of certain programs appears to be unduly penalizing those who depend on legitimate access to Forest Service holdings to ensure the economic viability of their enterprises.

USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service, including reviews of their reorganization efforts and the development of new

"ecoregion" management plans.

USDA agricultural research programs and projects, including a thorough review of research priorities, new research needs, and allocation of USDA research resources and funding.

# Administrative and regulatory issues

USDA reorganization of farm-related agencies, including field office closures, new county office structures and staffing, as well as review of authorities enacted in 1994 to reorganize all aspects of the Department of Agriculture. The Committee is especially interested in reviewing plans for reorganizing the USDA Forest Service.

USDA Consolidated Farm Service Agency. In addition to the broader restructuring reviews, concerns have been raised regarding administration of funds to cover salaries and expenses beyond the

levels appropriated.

USDA Food and Nutrition Service. In addition to food stamp issues, strong oversight is needed on related programs, including The Emergency Food Assistance Program, school lunch, WIC, and the policies governing those programs, as well as human nutrition poli-

cies in general.

The Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA). Aquaculture and related production issues/concerns.

Animal welfare and related statutes and issues.

The Packers and Stockyards Act (PSA), the Packers and Stockyard Administration and related activities.

The Agricultural Marketing Service, and related programs and

activities.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and related programs and activities.

Farm credit, rural development, and rural economy

The Farm Credit Administration (FCA), the statutes governing the FCA as regulator of the Farm Credit System (FSA), and reviews of both the FCA's and FCS' efforts to ensure System soundness relative to its use of risk management tools.

USDA Farmers Home Administration (FmHA). Following last year's reorganization of the Department, FmHA programs and authorities were split between farm and rural programs. Oversight is needed to ensure that unnecessary duplication is avoided relative to administration of these programs, as well as reviews of the programs relative to need and function.

The Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (FarmerMac). A component of the 1987 farm credit reform package, FarmerMac was intended to provide a competitive secondary mortgage market for agriculture credit. Oversight is needed to determine if it is

meeting its mission.

The Rural Utilities Service, Rural Business and Cooperative Development Service, Rural Housing and Community Development Service. These services are charged with key rural development/ maintenance authorities. Oversight is needed to ensure these authorities are being administered as intended.

In addition, the Committee reserves the right to review and investigate general legislative, administrative, and regulatory issues

affecting the jurisdiction of the Committee.

(Note.—For a full description of the Committee's compliance with the oversight plan, see "II. Committee Activities During the 104th Congress".)

#### II. Committee Activities During the 104th Congress

#### A. MAIN LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

#### 1. General

The Committee on Agriculture reported or otherwise considered a variety of bills in the 104th Congress covering many of the diverse areas within its jurisdictional interest. Its principal efforts in the first session of the 104th Congress were devoted to developing the "Freedom to Farm Act" (H.R. 2195), commonly referred to as the "1996 Farm Bill". After extensive hearings in Washington, D.C. and around the country, "Freedom to Farm" became title I of the "Seven-Year Balanced Budget Reconciliation Act of 1995" (H.R. 2491) as part of an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 2491 adopted by the House of Representatives. That bill (H.R. 2491) was vetoed by the President which resulted in the incorporation of the "Freedom to Farm" provisions into an enactment in the second session of the 104th Congress that is known today as the "Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996" (P.L. 104–127).

The Committee spent a considerable amount of time during the first and second sessions of the 104th Congress reforming the food stamp program. The first such bill (H.R. 1135) reported by the Committee in the first session became title subtitle J of title XII of the revised short title, the "Seven-Year Balanced Budget Act of 1995" (H.R. 2491). As previously noted, the President vetoed the "Seven-Year Balanced Budget Act of 1995."

The food stamp provisions of H.R. 2491 were then incorporated into the "Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1995" (H.R. 4). The President also vetoed H.R. 4. The food stamp reform provisions were acted on by the Committee again in the 104th Congress in H.R. 3507, which was incorporated into H.R. 3734, the "Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996". H.R. 3734 was subsequently enacted into law in the second session of Congress as P.L. 104–193.

The Committee also met its budget responsibilities through the enactment of the "Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996" (P.L. 104–127). This Act saves \$10 billion over the next 7 years from the 1995 February Congressional Budget Office (CBO) baseline. Admittedly, reducing Federal spending by that amount will impact farmers. However, some economists predict that a balanced budget will also lead to a 1.5 percent reduction in interest rates. The agriculture sector as a major user of credit has over \$140 billion borrowed in terms of long term and short debt and would therefore benefit from such a result. If interest rates decline by 1.5 percent, a balanced budget by the year 2002 could lead to an interest rate savings for U.S. agricultural producers exceeding \$15 billion over the next 7 years. More importantly the bill puts the \$44 billion projected to be spent on farm programs to use as a positive force for agricultural policy change and a period of transition to a more flexible program for farmers and producers.

Enactment of the "Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996" (Public Law 104–193) will reduce projected growth on the food stamps program by \$23.3 billion over six years relative to preamendment law.

2. Major activities of the committee considered during the 104th Congress

1996 Farm bill

The Committee saw title I of the "Federal Agriculture and Improvement Reform Act" (P.L. 104-127) enacted into law, which is

known as the "Agricultural Market Transition Act". Title I of P.L. 104-127 replaces the traditional farm programs with a program that is commonly referred to as "Freedom to Farm". Public Law 104-127 replaces current federal programs for major crops with a new system of fixed annual cash payments to farmers that will decline for each of the next seven years (1996-2002) and will not be tied to land set-asides, lack of crop flexibility in planting, and socalled "target prices" for producer income support. Under this new program, farmers have broad flexibility in choosing which crops to plant (with certain exceptions), and are no longer required to idle land as part of a Federal supply management policy or program. This Act also phases out the Federal price support program for milk by December 31, 1999; requires USDA to consolidate the milk marketing orders system into not less than 10 nor more than 14 orders and make other changes to the pricing system for milk by April 4, 1999; mandates USDA to engage in the maximum amount of Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP) activity permitted by the Uruguay Round of the GATT and authorizes USDA to consent for three years to an interstate dairy compact among six New England states. Public Law 104–127 also extends the current sugar and peanut programs, while making several changes in the programs to reduce their costs; reauthorizes the Food Stamp Program for two years; provides \$300 million for a new rural development fund; and suspends several provisions of the permanent 1938 and 1949 farm laws until 2002.

Public Law 104–127 also reauthorizes various USDA conservation, export, research, credit and promotion programs.

#### Food stamps and commodity distribution

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (also referred to as Welfare Reform) includes extensive reforms of the Food Stamp Program. This Act greatly expands States' role in the programs by broadening States' authority to harmonize the Food Stamp Program with other welfare programs, adds to and strengthens work and other nonfinancial eligibility requirements, controls future spending increases, expands penalties for rules violations and controls over food stamp trafficking, and encourages the electronic delivery of benefits. The Act authorizes food stamp appropriations through fiscal year 2002, without specific dollar limits on appropriations or spending. The Act also combines the Emergency Food Assistance Program with other commodity distribution programs for soup kitchens and food banks. The Act requires that \$100 million a year, from Food Stamp Program appropriations, be used to purchase commodities for this food distribution program.

#### Program reforms leading to budget savings

The Food Stamp Program and Commodity Distribution reforms included in The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 resulted in budget savings of \$23.3 billion over six years. Reforms included the retention of the Food Stamp Program as a "safety net" at the federal level; harmonization of AFDC and Food Stamp program; transition of the Food Stamp Program off "automatic pilot" except for annual increases in benefits based on in-

creases in the cost of food; requirement that able-bodied individuals without dependents work; promotion of real jobs with new incentives; curbing of trafficking and fraud with increased penalties; and

consolidation of food distribution programs.

Reforms to mandatory farm programs lead to budget savings of \$10.099 billion. Savings were achieved by providing market transition payments to farm producers in lieu of deficiency payments; reducing the payment limitation from \$50,000 to \$40,000; Capping crop price-support loan rates; allowing forage planting and harvesting; ending cotton 8-month loan extension; instituting changes to the dairy subtitle; reforming the peanut program; reforming the sugar program through increased assessments; restricting the CCC automated data processing funding; increasing the CCC commodity loan interest rate; ending the honey program; ending emergency feed assistance programs; ending Farmer-Owned Reserve; ending mandatory crop insurance catastrophic coverage; reducing Market Access Promotion spending; capping the Export Enhancement Program; extending and changing the payment system of the WRP; changing CRP enrollment authority; and expediting the sale of FmHA inventory properties.

# Food safety

The Committee after nearly a decade, saw enacted into law in the 104th Congress, the "Food Quality Protection Act of 1996" (Public Law 104-170), which makes significant changes to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), which governs U.S. sale and use of pesticide products, and to provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), which regulates pesticide residues in food. Public Law 104–170 will also improve registration and reregistration of minor uses and antimicrobial pesticides, and reauthorize collection of maintenance fees to support pesticide reregistration. Public Law 104-170 reforms provisions of the "Delaney Clause" which imposed a zero-cancer risk standard for pesticide residues on processed food, and establishes a new uniform health-based standard for chemical residues on raw agricultural products and processed foods. The new standard of "reasonable certainty of no harm" includes requirements on EPA to assess special risk factors for infants and children when setting pesticide tolerance levels; permits EPA in certain instances to balance competing health risks when setting standards; and requires EPA to prepare and distribute information pamphlets that inform consumers about pesticides.

#### Agricultural credit

In 1996, the Committee culminated nearly a year of work that began in the first session of the 104th Congress by enacting H.R. 2029 (P.L. 104–105), the "Farm Credit System Reform Act of 1996". This legislation also contained provisions that were included in the "Farmer Mac Reform Act of 1995" (H.R. 2130), that the Committee ordered reported on December 13, 1995 and that was also referred to the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services. Farmer Mac provisions were later adopted in the House after first being approved in the other body as part of H.R. 2029.

This legislation provided regulatory relief to institutions of the Farm Credit System, cooperative lenders to the Nation's farmers and ranchers, as well as providing relief in the statutory capital requirements and operational standards of the Federal Agricultural

Mortgage Corporation (FAMC), Farmer Mac.

Significant amendments to the "Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act" (ConAct) also were enacted as part of the "Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996". Congressmen Allard and Roberts introduced H.R. 2590, the "Farm Credit and Rural Development Reform Act of 1995" on November 7, 1995 after hearings had been held on USDA's farm credit and rural development programs. A conference committee agreed to include several amendments to the ConAct that had been proposed in H.R. 2590 and legislation adopted in the other body.

# Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act

The Committee reported and Congress enacted P.L. 104–48, legislation to reform the "Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, 1930", (PACA) to modernize, streamline, and strengthen the operation of that Act. The main provisions included a three-year phase-out of retailers and grocery wholesalers from the provisions of the PACA program, inclusion of a paperless system to administer the PACA Trust, additional investigative authority provided to USDA, clarification with respect to collateral fees, and an update in program penalties.

#### Futures trading

The Committee saw enacted into law P.L. 104–9, the reauthorization of appropriations for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) through the year 2000 without making other changes to the Commodity Exchange Act. The CFTC is an independent agency created by Congress in 1974, that regulates commodity futures and options markets in the United States and that is charged with ensuring the economic utility of futures markets by encouraging their competitiveness and protecting market participants against manipulation, abusive trade practices and fraud.

#### B. STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

# (1) Statistics on bills referred to the Committee on Agriculture Number of bills referred:

House bills Senate bills House joint resolutions House concurrent resolutions Senate concurrent resolutions	233 3 0 1
House resolution	0
Total	238
Disposition of Bills Containing Items Under the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture	
Bills enacted into law Bills acted on by the committee included in other bills that became law Bills vetoed Bills acted on by both Houses, but not enacted Bills passed by the House but not considered by the Senate	9 4 3 0 13

Concurrent resolutions passed	2
Bills reported to the House but not considered	Ę
Bills defeated in the House	(

# (2) Statistics on hearings and markups:

	Open busi- ness meetings	Washington hearings	Field hearings	Total
Full Committee	19	8	5	32
General farm commodities	0	7	7	14
Livestock, dairy, and poultry	0	16	5	21
Risk management and specialty crops	2	9	4	15
Department operations, nutrition, and foreign agriculture	5	12	2	19
Resource conservation, research, and forestry	3	15	1	19
Total	29	67	24	120

# C. DIGEST OF BILLS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WHICH SOME ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN $^3\,$

#### 1. Bills Enacted Into Law

Public Law 104-9 (S. 178) (H.R. 618)

Amends the Commodity Exchange Act to extend the authorization for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission through fiscal 2000 (approved April 21, 1995).

Public Law 104-48 (H.R 1103)

To amend the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, 1930, to modernize, streamline, and strengthen the operation of the Act (approved November 15, 1995).

The Act adds retailers and grocery wholesalers, who will be phased-out of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA), to the definition section of the current statute. Each of these entities operate as a dealer within the program and are therefore defined as a person that is a dealer engaged in their respective operations.

Eliminates annual licenses for retailers and grocery wholesalers over a period of three years. The phase-out begins on the first renewal date upon enactment. In one year, 100% of the license fee will be paid; in year two, 75% of the license fee will be paid; in year three, 50% of the license fee will be paid; and in the fourth year, no license fee is required.

Although retailers and grocery wholesalers will not be required to pay a license fee after three years, they are still required to obtain a PACA license and will remain subject to provisions of the PACA program.

Requires new retailers and grocery wholesalers entering the program within the three-years of enactment of the legislation, to pay the license fee established under the applicable phase-out year. After the third year, new retailers and grocery wholesalers will be required to pay a one-time administrative fee of \$100.

Addresses how license fees will be handled for other entities remaining under the PACA program. Strikes the current license fee

 $<sup>^3</sup>$  Note.—Similar or identical bills, and bills having reference to each other, are indicated by the number in parenthesis.

cap of \$400 and increases fees to \$550. Gives the Secretary authority, after three years, to adjust license fee caps pursuant to rule-making authority only when the PACA operating reserve reaches 25 percent or less. Under current law, the license fee cap can only be changed through legislation. It also repeals the current 25 percent cap on the operating reserve.

Increases penalties for operating without a license, inadvertent

operation without a license, and for late renewals.

Implements the paperless trust provisions of the PACA agreement. Currently, those who wish to protect their benefits must notify USDA within 30 days after final payment. This Act removes the filing requirement with USDA. Instead, transaction terms set forth in sufficient detail must be submitted by the unpaid supplier, seller and agent to the commission merchant, dealer or broker. The Act also establishes that a licensee may also preserve trust benefits through the use of ordinary and usual billing or invoice practices as long as a statement indicating that the commodities listed on the invoice are subject to trust claims.

Outlines new requirements for USDA when pursuing a PACA investigation. USDA must have a written complaint in hand before pursuing and/or expanding a PACA investigation. The Secretary of Agriculture may expand an investigation if additional violations are discovered while investigating a complaint based on reasonable grounds. The identity of any person filing written notification is considered confidential. USDA is also required to inform the subject of an investigation about the status of USDA's actions thereon no later than 180 days after initial notification. Also, the Act increases the damage threshold required to receive an expedited review (shortened procedure) of the complaints from \$15,000 to \$30,000.

The Act extends current provisions adopted earlier that establish filing fees for informal and formal reparation complaints. The \$60 fee for an informal reparation complaint and the \$300 fee for a formal reparation complaint are retained and become subject to rule-making authority if the Secretary wishes to adjust the level in the future.

The Act establishes clarification of the status of collateral fees and expenses. Collateral fees are commonly referred to as slotting fees, which establish product space in the store, and/or rebates, fees used for promotion activities. They are fees considered separate from invoice fees.

In the cases of misbranding, when produce grade, quality, quantity, weight or origin is misrepresented, persons other than the first licensee handling the misbranded commodities are not held liable for the violation by reason of the conduct of another if the person did not have knowledge of the violation or lacked the ability to correct the violation.

Authorizes USDA to assess civil monetary penalties not to exceed \$2000 for violation in lieu of license suspension or revocation for each violation or each day it continues. Currently, if an entity operating within PACA fraudulently obtains a PACA license or is involved in unfair conduct the only recourse available to USDA is to initiate a revocation hearing on the entity's license. This new provision allows USDA to take a less stringent step by assessing a civil

penalty on the entity in lieu of license revocation. However, USDA is required to give consideration to the business size, number of employees, seriousness of the violation, and nature and amount of the violation when assessing the amount of the violation.

Amends the current definition of who is a violator to permit individuals, who are responsibly connected to a company in violation of PACA, the opportunity to demonstrate that they were not re-

sponsible for the specific violation.

Under current law, an individual found to be responsibly connected to a company in violation of PACA can be banned from working (employment sanction) within the industry for a year. However, under current law if such individual is found to be working in the industry while under an employment sanction, USDA can bring enforcement action only against the company employing but permit USDA to extend the employment sanction to such individual for an additional year under such circumstances.

#### Public Law 104-55 (H.R. 436)

Requires the head of any Federal agency to differentiate between fats, oils, and greases of animal, marine, or vegetable origin, and other oils and greases in issuing certain regulations under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (approved November 20, 1995).

Defines the term "animal fat" to mean each type of animal fat, oil, or grease, including fat, oil or grease from fish or marine mammal. Additionally, the term "animal fat" includes any fat, oil, or grease referred to in section 61(a)(2) of title 13, United States Code.

grease referred to in section 61(a)(2) of title 13, United States Code.

Defines the term "vegetable oil" to include any vegetable oil re-

ferred to in section 61(a)(1) of title 13, United States Code.

Requires a Federal agency in issuing or enforcing a regulation, an interpretation or a guideline relating to a fat, oil, or grease under a Federal law, to differentiate between and establish separate categories for animal fats and vegetable oils and other oils.

Provides that in differentiating between classes of animal fats and vegetable oils and other oils, the Federal agency shall consider differences in physical, chemical, biological, and other properties, and in the effects on human health and the environment of the classes.

Provides that under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, the liability for a tank vessel carrying animal fat or vegetable oil is limited to the greater of \$600 per gross ton of the tank vessel or \$500,000. The liability of the responsible party is limited to the same amount as the tank vessel and such responsible party must establish and maintain, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Transportation, evidence of financial responsibility sufficient to meet the removal costs and damages incident to an oil discharge.

## Public Law 104-105 (H.R. 2029)

Amends the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to provide regulatory relief, and for other purposes (approved February 20, 1996).

The legislation removes several unnecessary and costly regulatory requirements of current law without jeopardizing the safety and soundness of system institutions by—

- (1) extending the period between mandated examinations from one year to 18 months, except that the Farm Credit Administration retains authority to examine institutions more frequently if necessary;
- (2) allows for the reduction of insurance premiums to Farm Credit institutions as the Farm Credit Insurance Fund reaches sufficient levels, and provide a method for refunding excess amounts as the fund earns interest;
- (3) reduces administrative costs by allowing Farm Credit associations to form administrative service entities without changing current lending authorities;
- (4) reduces the cost of Farm Credit participation in secondary markets by removing the borrower stock and borrower rights requirements from loans to be sold into the secondary market;

(5) relieves Farm Credit banks and Farm Credit borrowers from

antiquated and costly paperwork requirements; and

(6) provides relief in the statutory capital requirements and operational standards of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (FAMC), Farmer Mac.

#### Public Law 104-127 (H.R. 2854) (S. 1541)

To modify the operation of certain agricultural programs (approved April 4, 1996). Major provisions of the "Federal Agriculture

Improvement and Reform Act of 1996" (FAIR) include:

Production flexibility contracts—Eligible producers (those who had participated or had certified acreage in the wheat, feed grains, cotton and rice programs in any one of the past five years) can enter into seven-year market transition contracts. Sign-up for the new program was to begin approximately 45 days after enactment and extend through August 1, 1996. A 50 percent advance payment was to be available to producers within 30 days of signup with the remainder of the 1996 payment due by September 30, 1996. Payments in subsequent years were to be made on September 30, with producers having the option of receiving half of their annual payment in advance either on December 15 or January 15.

Planting flexibility—Any commodity may be grown on contract acreage except fruits and vegetables. Restrictions on haying and grazing of contract acreage were dropped so that alfalfa and other forage crops may be grown on contract acreage without loss of pay-

ments.

Nonrecourse marketing assistance loans—Establishes maximum loan rates at the following levels: Rice: \$6.50/cwt, Upland Cotton: \$0.5192/lb, Wheat: \$2.58/bu, Corn: \$1.89/bu, Soybeans: \$5.26/bu, ELS Cotton: \$0.7965/lb. The Secretary would retain authority to make downward adjustments to wheat, feed grains and oilseeds loan rates based on specified stocks-to-use criteria. The legislation establishes a minimum loan rate for rice at \$6.50/cwt, cotton at \$0.50/lb and soybeans at \$4.92/bu. and eliminates the 8-month upland cotton loan extension.

Peanuts—The FAIR Act saves \$412 million from the federal peanut program, making it a no-cost program. The quota support rate is lowered from \$678/ton to \$610/ton through 2002. The price support escalator is eliminated. The legislation eliminates the national poundage quota floor (currently 1,350,000 tons) and undermarket-

ing provisions of current law. The bill also allows limited sale, lease

and transfer of quota across county lines.

Sugar—In order to make the program more market-oriented, a recourse loan system is implemented until imports reach 1.5 million short tons for FY 1997–2002. The legislation terminates marketing allotments and implements a one cent penalty on forfeited sugar. Provisions of current law that require the Sugar Program to operate at no-net cost are retained in this bill. It also retains the loan rate for raw cane sugar and refined beet sugar at the 1995 levels, 18 cents and 22.9 cents respectively, and retains a ninemonth loan. The legislation would raise the assessment on sugar processors to achieve \$52 million in budget savings over seven years to be used toward deficit reduction.

Milk Price Support and Marketing Order Programs—Eliminates the currently imposed budget assessment on dairy producers immediately and phases down the support price on butter, powder and cheese over four years from \$10.35/cwt in 1996 to \$9.90/cwt in 1999. At the end of 1999, price support authority is eliminated and a recourse loan program is implemented at the 1999 support level (9.90/cwt). The Secretary of Agriculture is instructed to consolidate milk marketing orders from 33 to no more than 14 and no less than 10 in three years and to complete other reforms in the pricing

system for milk by April 4, 1999.

Federal Dairy Export programs—Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to use the Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP) at the maximum volume and funding levels permitted under GATT. The Secretary is authorized to assist the United States dairy industry in establishing and maintaining an export trading company to facilitate the international market development for, and exportation of, U.S. dairy products. In the event the U.S. dairy industry does not establish an export trading company, the Secretary is directed to indicate which entity autonomous of the U.S. government is best suited to facilitate the international market development for and exportation of U.S. dairy products. The Secretary is also directed to perform a study of the potential impact of new access cheese imports under the Uruguay Round on U.S. milk prices, dairy producer income, and the cost of Federal dairy programs.

income, and the cost of Federal dairy programs.

Northeast Dairy Compact—The Secretary of Agriculture may, upon the finding of a compelling public interest in the area, consent to the establishment of the Northeast Dairy Compact. The Compact would terminate with the completion of price and order reform authorized in the Act (i.e. not later than April 4, 1999).

Payment limitations—Reduces the current payment limitation by 20 percent, from \$50,000 to \$40,000 and extends provisions of current law that limit marketing loan gains and loan deficiency pay-

ments to \$75,000 per person per year.

Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) reforms—The FAIR Act saves \$396 million by reforming the manner in which CCC purchases computers. In addition, rates on CCC agricultural commodity loans are increased by 100 basis points for a savings of \$260 million over seven years.

Crop insurance—Eliminates the mandatory nature of catastrophic crop insurance, but requires producers to waive all federal disaster assistance if they opt not to purchase catastrophic insurance. Dual delivery of crop insurance to producers is eliminated in those states that have adequate private crop insurance delivery. The Act also corrects a provision of current law by amending the noninsured crop assistance program to include seed crops. Eligibility to purchase crop insurance is no longer linked to conservation and swampbuster compliance for producers who choose not to participate in farm programs.

Office of risk management—Establishes within USDA the Office of Risk Management to oversee and supervise the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. The Act directs the Secretary to establish a business interruption insurance program that allows producers of program crops to obtain revenue insurance coverage, and the current Options Pilot Program is also extended through 2002. The Office of Risk Management is charged with oversight of these pilot

programs.

Commission on 21st century production agriculture—An eleven member commission is established to monitor the agricultural economy during the transition contemplated in the FAIR Act. An initial report to Congress due by June 1, 1998, will evaluate the success of market transition contracts in supporting economic viability in farming, an assessment of nation's food security, changes in land values and farm income, and an assessment of the progress on regulatory and tax relief for agricultural producers. By January 1, 2001, the commission will make recommendations to Congress about the appropriate role of the Federal government in production agriculture.

Permanent agricultural law—The FAIR Act suspends certain provisions of the Agriculture Act of 1949 and the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 for crop years 1996 through 2002 together

with certain other technical amendments.

P.L. 480 and related programs—Reauthorizes Food for Peace and allows private sector participation for the first time. The Food Security Wheat Reserve is renamed the Food Security Commodity Reserve to reflect that corn, rice and sorghum are added as eligible commodities. A four million metric ton cap is placed on the reserve and access to reserve commodities is made easier.

Agricultural trade—Reauthorizes several agricultural trade and export programs with added emphasis on high value and value-added products. The Secretary of Agriculture is directed to monitor compliance with the agriculture provisions of the Uruguay Round Agreement of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and report violations to the U.S. Trade Representative. Agricultural producers are given additional protection against the economic effects of agricultural embargoes. In addition, several unnecessary and outdated provisions of Federal agricultural trade law are repealed.

Market Access Program—The Market Promotion Program (MPP) is renamed the Market Access Program to more accurately reflect program goals. Expenditures are capped at \$90 million per year and reforms are implemented to restrict participation to small businesses, farmer-owned cooperatives and agricultural groups.

Export Enhancement Program (EEP)—EEP expenditures are capped at \$350 million in 1996; \$250 million in 1997; \$500 million in 1998; \$550 million in 1999; \$579 million in 2000 and \$478 mil-

lion for 2001 and 2002. For the years 2000–2002, funding levels for EEP represent the maximum allowable expenditures under GATT. In addition, the Secretary of Agriculture is given authority to sub-

sidize the export of intermediate value-added products.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)—Gives the Secretary of Agriculture authority to enter into new contracts and extend expiring CRP contracts. The authorized maximum acreage in the CRP is maintained at 36.4 million acres. It also allows participants to terminate CRP contracts except on those lands that are deemed to be of high environmental value. Funds saved due to termination of contracts may be used by the Secretary to enroll new lands in the program.

Wetlands Reserve Program—The Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) is retained with modifications to encourage the use of tem-

porary easements and cost-share restorations.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)—This program targets approximately \$1.2 billion over seven years to assist crop and livestock producers deal with environmental and conservation improvements on the farm. Assistance can be used for animal waste management facilities, terraces, waterways, filterstrips or other structural and management practices to protect water, soil and related resources. Assistance to individual operations is capped at \$10,000 per year for a maximum of five years. Large operators, as defined by the Secretary, will be ineligible for assistance.

Everglades agricultural area—Provides \$200 million for land acquisition in the Florida Everglades for the purpose of environmental restoration. An additional \$100 million in federal support will be financed through the sale or swap of other federally held

land in Florida.

Other new conservation programs—Farms for the Future Program provides \$35 million to preserve farmland from commercial development. A new Conservation Farm Option offers producers an additional alternative in meeting conservation goals. A Flood Risk Reduction Program is also included to provide farmers incentives to take out of production frequently flooded lands.

Conservation compliance reform—Producers are given enhanced flexibility to modify conservation practices if they can demonstrate that the new practices achieve equal or greater erosion control. Variances from conservation compliance can now be granted on account of adverse weather or disease, and program payment penalties can be adjusted to be commensurate with the violation.

Swampbuster reforms—The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is designated the lead federal agency in wetlands delineation and regulation on grazing lands. The legislation stipulates that current wetlands delineations remain valid until a producer requests a review. Penalties can now be adjusted to fit the wetlands violation, exemptions can be granted for good faith and wetlands mitigation options are expanded.

Federal Food Stamp Program—Reauthorized the Food Stamp Program for two years while Congress continued to work on com-

prehensive welfare reform legislation.

Generic Commodity Promotion Program—Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a generic commodity promotion program. Under the program, interested industries could petition USDA for the establishment of a commodity promotion program. Currently, each commodity must receive specific authorization from Congress to create a promotion program. Recognizing that the generic promotion program will not be operational for some time, the legislation authorizes new promotion programs for popcorn, canola and kiwifruit.

USDA Farm Lending Program Reforms—Redirects farm lending programs to their original intent. Authority to make loans for a variety of non-agricultural purposes, such as recreation facilities and small business enterprises is repealed. The Secretary of Agriculture is given authority to use collection agencies to recover delinquent loans. The legislation prohibits additional loans to delinquent borrowers and streamlines procedures for disposal of inventory property. A portion of loan funding is reserved for new and beginning farmers.

Rural Community Advancement Program (RCAP)—Amendments to the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Subtitle E) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to provide grants, direct and guaranteed loans and other assistance to meet rural development needs across the country. Funding under RCAP will be allocated to three areas: 1) Rural Community Facilities 2) Rural Utilities and 3) Rural Business and Cooperative Development. The new program provides greater flexibility, state and local decision-making and a simplified, uniform application process.

Water and waste water systems—The funding authorization for these water and waste water system purposes is increased from

\$500 million to \$590 million.

Telemedicine and distance learning programs—Reauthorizes and streamlines these programs. Under these programs, the Secretary of Agriculture may make grants and loans to assist rural communities with construction of facilities and services to provide distance learning and telemedicine services. Funding is authorized at \$100 million annually.

Fund for Rural America—The fund is provided with \$300 million in 1997–1999. The Secretary of Agriculture is required to spend at least one-third of the amount on research and one-third of the amount on rural development. The other one-third of the money can be allocated to either purpose at the discretion of the Secretary. All the funding must be spent through existing research

and rural development programs.

Agricultural research—Reauthorizes federal agricultural research, extension and education programs for two years. This reauthorization extension will allow Congress to continue ongoing review of these programs to determine how best to use the \$1.8 billion in annual agricultural research, extension and education spending leading into the XXI century. Additional research dollars are made available under this bill through the Fund for Rural America

Agriculture quarantine and inspection—Amends the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to allow the Secretary of Agriculture to collect and spend fees collected over \$100 million to cover the cost of providing quarantine and inspection services for imports. In fiscal year 2003 the Committee has provided the funding necessary to convert the AQI user fee account to a non-appro-

priated account under the discretion of the Secretary. Beyond fiscal year 2003 it is expected that all funds collected for the purpose of agriculture quarantine inspection will be dedicated for that purpose. It is also expected that oversight on this account will continue to be assumed by the Agriculture Sub-Committee on Agriculture Appropriations and the Agriculture authorizing Committee.

Humane horse transportation—Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture, because of the unique and special needs of equine being transported to slaughter and subject to the availability of appropriations, to issue guidelines for the regulation of persons regularly engaged in the commercial transportation of equine for slaughter

within the U.S.

The object of any prospective regulation on this matter will be the individual or company which regularly engages in commercial transport of equine to slaughter, and will not extend to individuals or others who periodically transport equine for slaughter outside of their regular activities.

The Secretary was instructed to employ performance based standards as opposed to engineering based standards when establishing guidelines for the regulation of commercial transportation of

equine species to slaughter.

No authorization of authority under this section was to be construed to give the Secretary authority to regulate routine or regular transport of non-slaughter equine. Further, no authorization of authority under this section was to be construed to give the Secretary authority to regulate the routine or regular transportation of any other livestock, including poultry, to a slaughter facility or any other destination or by any conveyance.

Safe Meat and Poultry Inspection Panel—Creates a panel of scientists, within the Food Safety and Inspection Service, charged with the responsibility of reviewing all inspection policies from a scientific perspective. The panel's report and the Secretary of Agriculture's responses, must be published in the Federal Register.

State inspected meat—Within 90 days of enactment, the Secretary shall report and recommend to Congress the steps necessary to achieve interstate shipment of state-inspected meat products.

#### Public Law 104-165 (H.R. 701)

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey lands to the

city of Rolla, Missouri (approved July 24, 1996).

Public Law 104-165 authorizes the Secretary to convey land within the Mark Twain National Forest to the City of Rolla, Missouri. The transfer will be based upon the City of Rolla paying the Secretary consideration equal to the fair market value of such conveyance as determined by an appraisal acceptable to the Secretary. Payment may be made in full within 6 months of the conveyance or in twenty equal installments made annually until paid in full.

The legislation further provides that the Secretary, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office, ensure that the historic resources on the property are conserved by requiring the City to convey an historic preservation easement to the State assuring the right of the State to enter the property for historic preservation purposes. The protection of historic resources is the re-

sponsibility of the City and the State.

It is the intention of the City that the historic resources in question, a former district ranger office, be used as a regional tourist center for the Mark Twain National Forest.

#### Public Law 104-170 (H.R. 1627)

To amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic (FFDC)

Act, and for other purposes (approved August 3, 1996).

The Food Quality Protection Act (P.L. 104–170) focuses on children's health by implementing recommendations of the National Research Council's report on "Pesticides in the Diets of Infants and Children." The Act requires the Federal government to fully consider any special risks to infants and children in its regulatory actions.

Promotes safer crop protection products by expediting registration of reduced-risk pesticides so that safer products may reach the

market sooner and replace older products.

Provides regulatory relief for minor use and public health pesticides by streamlining regulatory procedures for pesticides used in the production of smaller-acreage or so-called "minor use" crops. This category includes many fruits and vegetables, which are a key component of a healthy diet. This special regulatory treatment would also be extended to pesticides used by government officials to control pests and diseases injurious to public health.

Provides industry funded reregistration by extending the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) authority to collect \$76 million in reregistration fees from the chemical industry through the year 2001. Reregistration is required by law to assure that older

chemicals meet today's tougher standards.

Reinforces EPA's authority to require information on whether a pesticide chemical may mimic estrogen in humans or induce endocrine effects.

Coordination of regulations implementing FIFRA and the FFDC Act will by required by establishing a single standard of safety for pesticide residue on raw and processed foods by providing information through large food retail stores to consumers about the health risks of pesticide residues and how to avoid them. Preemption of state and local food safety laws is allowed if they are based on concentrations of pesticides residues below recently established Federal residue limits called tolerances to be safe and ensure reasonable certainty of no harm.

#### Public Law 104-193 (H.R. 3734)

To provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(a)(1) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1997 (approved

August 22, 1996).

Title VIII and relevant provisions of title IX incorporated most of the provisions of title X, the Food Stamp Reform and Commodity Distribution Act of 1996, and relevant provisions of title XI of H.R. 3507. Title X of H.R. 3507 incorporated most of the provisions of the Conference Report to H.R. 4, which was vetoed by the President on January 9, 1996. (Note: For discussion of H.R. 4 see Part II, C. "3. Vetoed Bills" *infra*).

Public Law 104–193 made extensive reforms to the food stamp program. Based on these reforms, projected growth in the food stamp program was reduced by \$23.3 billion over six years relative to preamendment law:

Appropriations for the food stamp program are authorized through fiscal year 2002, without specific dollar limits on appro-

priations or spending.

States were provided authority to operate a simplified food stamp program under which they may determine food stamp benefits for households receiving food stamps and the program established by the state under the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families pro-

Monthly food stamp benefits will continue to be adjusted annually to reflect changes in the cost of food, except at 100 percent of the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan instead of 103 percent. Benefits may not drop below preamendment levels as a result of this change.

The standard deduction and excess shelter expense deduction are maintained at preamendment levels. State and local energy assistance is counted as income. The vehicle asset allowance is increased

to \$4,650, but future indexation for inflation is eliminated.

Persons under 21 who are parents or married and living with their own parent must apply for food stamps as part of their parents' household.

Able-bodied individuals between the age of 18 and 50 who have no dependents must work at least half time (20 hours per week), or participate in a workfare or training program to be eligible for food stamps. Such persons may receive food stamps without working or participating in a workfare or training program for three months out of every three years. Additionally, a person who has exhausted the three-month period may receive food stamps for an additional three months if they are laid off from their job during the three-year period. A state may seek a waiver from this work requirement for an area of the state in which the unemployment rate exceeds 10 percent or there are insufficient jobs available.

The penalties against retailers and recipients for trafficking and fraud are increased. The authority to impose criminal forfeiture against the property of those convicted of food stamp trafficking is

established.

States may operate work supplementation or support programs under which the value of public assistance benefits, including food stamps, are provided to employers who hire recipients and, in turn, use the benefits to supplement the wages paid to the recipient. A limited number of states may pay food stamp benefits in cash to recipients working for at least three months in an unsubsidized job earning \$350 or more a month.

States may impose the same penalties against food stamp recipients as imposed against the individual for failing to comply with

state welfare program rules.

States are encouraged to implement Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) systems. The Federal Reserve Board's "Regulation E" (which provides certain protections for consumers using cards to electronically access their accounts) is not applied to any EBT system distributing means-tested benefits established or administered by

state or local governments.

A single emergency food distribution program is established by consolidating several existing commodity distribution programs. The Act provides that \$100 million annually is authorized to be used from Food Stamp Program appropriations to purchase commodities for distribution under the new program.

#### Public Law 104-310 (H.R. 1874)

To modify the boundaries of the Talladega National Forest, Ala-

bama (approved October 19, 1996).

Authorizes the Secretary of Interior to transfer from the Bureau of Land Management to the Talladega National Forest, 399.40 acres, more or less, in Huntsville Meridian, Township 17 South Range 8 East, Section 34 NE 1/4, SW 1/4, and S 1/2 NW 1/4, Cleburne County. Also this legislation authorizes the transfer of 160.00 acres, more or less, in Huntsville Meridian, Township 13 South Range 9 East, Section 28m SE 1/4, Calhoun County.

#### Other Laws

Several bills acted on by other authorizing committees, but not acted on by the Committee on Agriculture, were enacted with provisions relating to matters within the Committee's jurisdiction. Following are abbreviated summaries of these bills, including some of the relevant provisions:

#### Legislative matters

# Public Law 104-307 (S. 2078) (H.R. 4108)

To authorize the sale of excess Department of Defense aircraft to facilitate the suppression of wildfire (approved October 14, 1996).

Authorizes the Secretary of Defense to sell excess Federal aircraft and aircraft parts to airtanker contractors solely for wildfire suppression.

Provides for verification by the Secretary of Agriculture of the capability and use of the aircraft or aircraft parts by potential buyers

for wildfire suppression.

(*Note*.—S. 2078 was not referred to a Committee in the House. However, its companion bill, H.R. 4108, was referred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, Agriculture, and National Security.)

#### Public Law 104-333, (H.R. 4236)

The Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (approved November 12, 1996).

H.R. 4236 contained several sections relating to issues within this committee's jurisdiction, including:

Under Division I—

Section 212 relating to a boundary adjustment in National Forest System land in Idaho;

Sections 301, 305 and 307 relating to land transfers between private entities and the Secretary of Agriculture for interests in land located in Arkansas, Idaho, Oklahoma, Montana, and Wyoming;

Section 701 relating to ski area permit rental charges by the Secretary of Agriculture on Forest Service lands;

Section 1030 relating to timber management activities in Or-

egon by the Secretary of Agriculture;

Section 1036 relating to projects eligible for financing under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended; and

Under Division II—

Title VII relating to the creation of an agricultural heritage partnership involving the Secretary of Agriculture's administration of such partnership's land in Iowa.

(*Note*.—See also discussion of H.R. 1296, the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 in "4. Bills Acted on By Both Houses But Not Enacted".)

# Appropriations

#### Public Law 104-37 (H.R. 1976)

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1996 (approved October 21, 1995)—

Authorized commodities acquired in connection with section 32 and the Commodity Credit Corporation to be used to provide commodities to individuals in cases of hardship as determined by the Secretary;

Extended the availability of appropriated amounts for loans and guaranteed loans to remain available until expended to cover obligations made in FY 1996 for the following program accounts: rural development loan fund; Rural Telephone Bank; rural electrification and telecommunications loans; and rural economic development loans;

Prohibited the Secretary of Agriculture from using appropriated funds to administer the honey price support program authorized by sections 207 and 405A of the Agricultural Act of 1949:

Prohibited the Secretary of Agriculture from using appropriated funds to retire more than 5% of the Class A stock of the Rural Telephone Bank;

Prohibited the Secretary of Agriculture from using appropriated funds to provide food stamp benefits to households whose benefits are calculated using a more recent standard deduction greater than the standard deduction in effect for FY 1995.

Prohibited the Secretary of Agriculture from using appropriated funds to provide assistance to, or to pay the salaries of personnel who carry out a market promotion program pursuant to section 203 of the Ag Trade Act of 1978 that provides assistance to, the U.S. Mink Export Development Council or any mink industry trade association;

Prohibited the Secretary of Agriculture from using appropriated funds to enroll in excess of 100,000 acres in the FY 1996 wetlands reserve program; and

Prohibited the Secretary of Agriculture from using appropriated funds to enroll additional acres in the Conservation Re-

serve Program, but authorized 1,579,000 new acres to be enrolled in the program in the year beginning January 1, 1997.

Public Law 104-134, (H.R. 3019)

Making appropriations for fiscal year 1996 to make a further downpayment toward a balanced budget, and for other purposes (approved April 25, 1996). Two provisions within this Committee's jurisdiction were included in the Public Law—

(1) a provision that allowed USDA to process loan applications of borrowers who had submitted a loan application and were not 90 days delinquent on any other USDA farmer program loans. At the time the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform (FAIR) was enacted, the FAIR Act had restricted the eligibility requirements of USDA's farm credit program to borrowers who were not more than 90 days delinquent on loans and who submitted an application for an additional loan on or after the FAIR Act's enactment, April 4, 1996; and

(2) a provision that specifies that domestic fish or fish products that have passed a lot based inspection conducted by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) shall be deemed to have met the inspection requirements of other Federal agencies for

any federal commodity purchase program.

Public Law 104-180 (H.R. 3603)

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1997 (approved August 6, 1996)—

Authorized commodities acquired in connection with section 32 of Public Law 320 (7 U.S.C. 612c) and the Commodity Credit Corporation to be used to provide commodities to individuals

in cases of hardship as determined by the Secretary;

Extended the availability of appropriated amounts for loans and guaranteed loans to remain available until expended to cover obligations made in FY 1996 for or from the following program accounts: rural development loan fund; Rural Telephone Bank; rural electrification and telecommunications loans; and rural economic development loans:

loans; and rural economic development loans;
Prohibited the Secretary of Agriculture from using appropriated funds to retire more than 5% of the Class A stock of the Rural Telephone Bank; to maintain any account or subaccount within the accounting records of the Rural Telephone Bank which has not been specifically authorized by statute; and to transfer to the Treasury or to the Federal Financing Bank any unobligated balance of the Rural Telephone Bank telephone liquidating account which is in excess of current requirements;

Prohibited the Secretary of Agriculture from using appropriated funds to provide food stamp benefits to households whose benefits are calculated using a standard deduction greater than the standard deduction in effect for FY 1995;

Prohibited the Secretary of Agriculture from using appropriated funds to provide assistance to, or to pay the salaries of personnel who carry out a market promotion program pursuant to section 203 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 that

provides assistance to, the U.S. Mink Export Development

Council or any mink industry trade association;

Substantially re-wrote the enrollment procedures for the Wetlands Reserve Program—limited FY 1997 enrollment to 130,000 acres, provides that more than 130,000 acres may be enrolled in FY 1997 if non-federal funds are available, allowed more permanent easements in FY 1997 after 43,333 (31,667 acres in FY 1998) acres of temporary easements have been enrolled;

Prohibited the Secretary of Agriculture from using appropriated funds to administer the export enhancement program beyond \$100,000,000;

Prohibited the Secretary of Agriculture from using appropriated funds to administer the farmland protection program in excess of \$2,000,000;

Prohibited the Secretary of Agriculture from using appropriated funds to administer the conservation farm option pro-

gram in excess of \$2,000,000;

Added a duplicative condition to the requirements of the Agricultural Market Transition Act (Title I of the FAIR Act) to prohibit the Secretary of Agriculture from using appropriated funds to make payments under a production flexibility contract when it is made known to the Federal official having authority to obligate or expend such funds that the land covered by the contract is not being used for the production of an agricultural commodity or is not devoted to a conserving use, unless due to a drought, flood, or other natural disaster;

Prohibited the Secretary of Agriculture from using appropriated funds to extend existing or expiring contracts in the

Conservation Reserve Program;

Prohibited the Secretary of Agriculture from using appropriated funds to administer the meat and poultry inspection provisions established by section 918 of the FAIR Act;

Changed the effective date of the Secretary's authority to make grants to nonprofit institutions for rural cooperative development purposes by amending section 310B(e)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended by the FAIR Act:

Added a stand-alone provision of law dealing with labeling of poultry products that requires the Secretary to issue new regulations within 90 days with specifications relating to what can be labeled "fresh" versus "frozen";

Added a stand-alone provision of law dealing with seafood inspection that makes any seafood meeting FDA's standard for processing and importing fish and fish products to be deemed to have met any USDA or other federal agency rule;

Extended the authority to make multifamily rural housing loans (including set-asides for nonprofit entities and housing in underserved areas) by one year by amending section 515(b)(4) of the Housing Act of 1949;

Added a stand-alone provision of law authorizing additional early-out retirement offers by Secretary to USDA personnel; and

Extended the by-pass flow moratorium and the report deadline of the by-pass flow task force, and added a day-for-day moratorium extension for failure to appoint task force members by amending section 389 of the FAIR Act.

#### 2. BILLS ACTED ON BY THE COMMITTEE INCLUDED IN OTHER LAWS ENACTED

#### H.R. 618 included in Public Law 104-9

See the discussion under "1. Bills enacted into Law. Public Law 104-9 (S. 178)".

# H.R. 714 included in Public Law 104–106 (S. 1124)

Public Law 104-106, the "National Defense Authorization Act for

Fiscal Year 1996" (approved February 10, 1996).

Section 2901 of this Act is cited as the "Illinois Land Conservation Act of 1995". This provision was reported, amended, by the Committee on Agriculture on July 28, 1995 (H. Rept. 104-191 (part II)) under H.R. 714 and passed by the House on July 31, 1995. For a description of this provision, see discussion under Part II, C, "5. Bills acted on by the House but Not by the Senate" and "3. Bills Vetoed".

#### H.R. 2130 included in Public Law 104–105 (H.R. 2029)

See the discussion under "1. Bills enacted into Law. Public Law 104-105~(H.R.~2029)" and "7. Bills Reported to the House But Not Considered".

# H.R. 3507 included in Public Law 104–193 (H.R. 3734)

On June 11, 1996, the Committee met to consider title X and other related provisions of H.R. 3507 with respect to its Recommendations to the Budget Committee as provided in the Budget Resolution Instructions contained in H. Con. Res 178, the Reconciliation Bill for Fiscal Year 1997. The recommendations of the Committee on Agriculture to the Budget Committee were included in H.R. 3734.

(Note: For a discussion of H.R. 3734, see description of P.L. 104-193 in Part II, C, "1. Bills Enacted into Law", supra.)
While similar, H.R. 3507 differed from Public Law 104–193, inter

alia, in the following ways:

In addition to state or local energy assistance, benefits paid under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Programs was considered income;

The threshold above which the value of a vehicle is counted as an asset for determining eligibility was set at \$4,600;

Able-bodied recipients between the ages of 18 and 50 who have no dependents would be ineligible if, during the prior 12month period, they received food stamps for four months or more while not working at least half time or participating in workfare or a training program; and

States that had implemented EBT on a statewide basis, reduced rates of error to acceptable levels, or paid that part of the food stamp error over acceptable levels, could elect to oper-

ate the food stamp program under a block grant.

#### 3. VETOED BILLS

## H.R. 4, The Personal Responsibility Act of 1995

On March 7, 1995, the Committee considered and reported H.R. 1135, the Food Stamp Reform and Commodity Distribution Act, favorably to the House. The provisions of H.R. 1135 were incorporated into title V of H.R. 1214, the Personal Responsibility Act of 1995, by a rule under which it was considered on the House Floor. Later the provisions of title V of H.R. 1214 were substantially incorporated into title XI of H.R. 4, which passed the House on March 24, 1995. H.R. 4, the Personal Responsibility Act of 1995, was vetoed on January 9, 1996.

(Note.—Most of the provisions of the Conference Report to H.R. 4 were also incorporated into the H.R. 2491, the Balanced Budget Act of 1995, as subtitle J of title XII. H.R. 2491 was vetoed on December 6, 1995. For discussion of the provisions of subtitle J of title XII of H.R. 2491, see also "3. Bills Vetoed". For discussion of H.R. 1135, see also "7. Bills Reported to the House But Not Considered".)

Title X and relevant provisions of title XI of the Conference Report to H.R. 4 made extensive reforms to the Food Stamp Program. Based on these reforms, projected growth in the food stamp program was reduced by \$25.5 billion over seven years relative to preamendment existing law, and—

The Food Stamp Program was reauthorized through fiscal year 2002 with the authority to obligate funds limited to specifically prescribed amounts for each year, adjusted annually to reflect changes to the cost of food in the Thrifty Food Plan and levels of participation;

Benefits paid as state or local energy assistance and under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program were to be considered income;

States were provided the authority to operate a simplified food stamp program under which they might determine food stamp benefits for households receiving food stamps and the program established by the state under the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program;

Monthly food stamp benefits would continue to be adjusted annually to reflect changes in the cost of food, except at 100 percent of the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan instead of 103 percent (benefits would not drop below preamendment levels as a result of this change);

The standard deduction and excess shelter expense deduction were maintained at preamendment levels;

State and local energy assistance was counted as income;

The vehicle asset allowance was maintained at \$4,600, but future indexation for inflation was eliminated;

Persons under 21 who are parents or married and living with their own parent must apply for food stamps as part of their parents' household;

Able-bodied recipients between the ages of 18 and 50 who have no dependents would be ineligible if, during the prior 12-month period, they received food stamps for four months or

more while not working at least half time or participating in workfare or a training program;

The penalties against retailers and recipients for trafficking and fraud were increased;

The authority to impose criminal forfeiture against the property of those convicted of food stamp trafficking is established;

States could operate work supplementation or support programs under which the value of public assistance benefits, including food stamps, were provided to employers who hire recipients and, in turn, use the benefits to supplement the wages paid to the recipient;

A limited number of states could pay food stamp benefits in cash to recipients working for at least three months in an

unsubsidized job earning \$350 or more a month;

States could impose the same penalties against food stamp recipients as imposed against the individual for failing to comply with state welfare program rules;

States were encouraged to implement Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) systems;

The Federal Reserve Board's "Regulation E" (which provides certain protections for consumers using cards to electronically access their accounts) was not applied to any EBT system distributing means-tested benefits established or administered by state or local governments;

States that had implemented EBT on a statewide basis, reduced rates of error to acceptable levels, or paid that part of the food stamp error over acceptable levels could elect to oper-

ate the food stamp program under a block grant; and

Single emergency food distribution program was established by consolidating several existing commodity distribution programs. The Bill provided that \$300 million annually could be used from food stamp program appropriations to purchase commodities for distribution under the new program.

## H.R. 2491, The Seven Year Balanced Budget Reconciliation Act of 1995

Title I of H.R 2491 as passed by the House of Representatives was cited as the "Agricultural Reconciliation Act of 1995". H.R. 2491 would have reduced projected agriculture spending for farm commodity programs by \$13.4 billion over the period 1996 through 2002

Title I of H.R. 2491 consisted of the final consideration by the Committee on Agriculture that was patterned in large part after H.R. 2195, the Freedom to Farm Act, which was designed to reform U.S. Agricultural policy to perhaps the greatest extent since the 1930's.

The Committee on Agriculture was appointed as conferees to H.R. 2491 on October 30, 1995 with a conference report (H.Rept. 104–350) filed in the House of Representatives on November 17, 1995 and final passage on November 30, 1995 by a vote of 235 years to 192 nays. However, the President vetoed the measure on December 6, 1995 with no further action taking place on H.R. 2491.

Major agriculture-related provisions of the conference agreement

included:

## Production flexibility contracts

Eligible producers (those who had participated in the wheat, feed grains, cotton and rice programs in any one of the past five years) could enter into seven-year "production flexibility contracts" between 1996 and 2002. The deadline for entering into the contract was to be April 15, 1996. Payments would be made on September 30 of each year beginning in 1996. Farmers would also have the option of receiving half of their annual payment by December 15 of the previous year (except in 1996 when the advance payment would be due within 60 days of the signing of a contract).

Payments would be made on 85 percent of a farm's contract acreage. On this acreage participants would be free to plant any program crop, oilseed, industrial or experimental crop, mung beans, lentils and dry peas. Planting of fruits and vegetables would be prohibited on payment acres as would haying and grazing during the five principal growing months. The remaining 15 percent of acreage would be free from any planting restrictions. These commodity program changes would result in \$8.6 billion in budget sav-

ings over the next seven years.

#### Peanuts

The legislation saved \$434 million from the federal peanut program, making it a no-cost program. The price support program for peanuts was extended through 2002, but the quota support rate was lowered from \$678/ton to \$610/ton. The price support escalator was eliminated. The legislation eliminated the national poundage quota floor (currently 1,350,000 tons) and undermarketing provisions of current law. Previously considered reforms for quota reduction, the sale, lease and transfer of quota across county lines, and offers from handlers were removed from the bill due to Byrd Rule considerations in the House-Senate conference.

#### Sugar

In order to make the program more market-oriented, a recourse loan system was implemented until imports reach 1.5 million short tons for FY 1997–2002. The bill terminated marketing allotments and implement a one cent penalty on forfeited sugar. Provisions of current law that require the Sugar Program to operate at no-net cost were retained in this bill. It also retained the loan rate for raw cane sugar and refined beet sugar at the 1995 levels, 18 cents and 22.9 cents respectively, and retained a nine-month loan. The legislation would have raised the assessment on sugar processors to achieve \$52 million in budget savings over seven years toward deficit reduction.

Nonrecourse marketing assistance loans

The conference agreement established maximum loan rates at the following (1995) levels:

Rice: \$6.50/cwt

Upland Cotton: \$0.5192/lb

Wheat: \$2.58/bu Corn: \$1.89/bu Soybeans: \$4.92/bu ELS Cotton: \$0.7965/lb. The Secretary would retain authority to make downward adjustments to wheat and feed grains loan rates based on specified stocks-to-use criteria. The bill also established a minimum loan rate for rice at \$6.50/cwt and cotton at \$0.50/lb. The conference agreement also eliminated the 8-month cotton loan extension. The loan rate provisions of the conference agreement would have saved \$107 million.

## Payment limitations

The conference agreement reduced the current payment limitation by 20 percent, from \$50,000 to \$40,000. The bill extends provisions of current law that limit marketing loan gains and loan deficiency payments to \$75,000 per person per year. The payment limitation reduction achieved \$150 million in budget savings.

## Program authority elimination

This legislation repealed the Agriculture Act of 1949 as well as the permanent law provisions of the Agriculture Adjustment Act of 1938. Also eliminated were authorities for the Farmer Owned Reserve and the Emergency Livestock Feed Assistance Program.

## Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The CRP was capped at the current level of 36.4 million acres for a savings of \$569 million over seven years. Also adopted was an "early out" provision to allow contract holders to terminate CRP contracts upon written notification of the Secretary.

## Livestock Environmental Assistance Program (LEAP)

The program was established to help livestock producers improve environmental and water quality. The program made available \$100 million annually to provide technical and cost-share assistance in implementing structural and management practices to protect water, soil and related resources from degradation associated with livestock production.

#### Market Promotion Program (MPP)

MPP expenditures were capped at \$100 million through 2002 producing a savings of \$60 million.

## Export Enhancement Program (EEP)

EEP expenditures were capped at \$350 million in 1996 and 1997; \$500 million in 1998; \$550 million in 1999; \$579 million in 2000 and \$478 million for 2001 and 2002. Total savings from EEP to be \$1.27 billion.

### Crop insurance

The bill eliminated the mandatory nature of catastrophic crop insurance, but required producers to waive all federal disaster assistance if they opt not to purchase insurance. Dual delivery of crop insurance was eliminated in those states that have adequate private crop insurance delivery. The bill also corrected a provision of current law by amending the Federal Crop Insurance Act to include seed crops. The crop insurance provisions of the bill resulted in net savings of \$130 million.

Agriculture quarantine and inspection

The bill amended the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 to allow the Secretary to collect and spend fees collected over \$100 million to cover the cost of providing quarantine and inspection services for imports.

Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) interest rates

Rates on CCC agriculture commodity loans were increased by 100 basis points for a savings of \$260 million over seven years.

National Weather Service

Stipulated that the National Weather Service will not compete with the private sector when a weather service is provided, or can be provided by commercial enterpirse. This would have ultimately resulted in privatization of the Agricultural Weather Service.

Seafood inspection

Stipulates that the seafood inspection activities of the National Marine Fisheries Services, would be transferred to the National Institute for Science and Technology.

Food stamps and commodity distribution reform

Most of the provisions of title X and relevant provisions of title XI of the Conference Report to H.R. 4 were incorporated into H.R. 2491, the Balanced Budget Act of 1995, as subtitle J of title XII. (Note: For discussion of H.R. 4, see Part II, C "3. Bills Vetoed"

Based on the reforms to the Food Stamp Program in subtitle J of title XII of H.R. 2491, projected growth was reduced by \$27.8 billion over seven years relative to preamendment law.

While similar, subtitle J of title XII of H.R. 2491 differed from title X and relevant provisions of title XI in the Conference to H.R.

4, inter alia, in the following ways:

The Food Stamp Program was not reauthorized, nor was any limitation placed on the obligational authority of the Secretary;

Criminal forfeiture authority was not provided; and

An exemption for means-tested benefits established or administered by state or local governments from the Federal Reserve Board's "Regulation E" was not provided.

H.R. 1530, Department of Defense Authorization Act for 1996

H.R. 1530 was initially passed by the House of Representatives on June 15, 1995, and contained provisions dealing solely with the Department of Defense authorization. In amending the bill on September 6, 1995, the Senate added sections 2851 through 2857, that contained provisions similar to H.R. 714, the "Illinois Land Conservation Act", which was reported by the Committee on Agriculture and also passed by the House of Representatives on July 31, 1995.

The Committee on Agriculture was appointed as conferees to H.R. 1530 on September 21, 1995. Language contained in the conference report 104-406 to accompany H.R. 1530 was language similar to that in H.R. 714 as previously passed by the House of Representative with modifications that:

(1) made technical corrections;

(2) authorized the Secretary of the Army to transfer 982 acres of real property to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery;

(3) authorized the Secretary of the Army to convey to Will County, Illinois, without consideration an amount of 455 acres

of real property for use as a landfill;

(4) authorized the Secretary of the Army to convey to the State of Illinois, at fair market value, 3,000 acres of real property to the State of Illinois for economic redevelopment. The State of Illinois was to be required to pay the Army fair market value for the property within twenty years after the date of the conveyance; and

(5) required the Governor of the State of Illinois to consult with the Mayors of the Village of Elwood, Illinois, and the City of Wilmington, Illinois, in establishing a redevelopment authority to oversee the conveyance, and the development as well as the environmental remediation and restoration of the real property comprising the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant.

On December 28, 1995, the President vetoed H.R. 1530. The House of Representatives on January 3, 1996, failed to over-ride the Presidential Veto Message by a vote of 240 years to 156 nays.

(*Note*.—See also discussion of H.R. 714, the Illinois Conservation Land Act in part II C, "5. Bills Acted on by the House But Not the Senate" and "2. Bills Acted on by the Committee Included in Other Laws Enacted".)

## 4. BILLS ACTED ON BY BOTH HOUSES BUT NOT ENACTED

# Other bills

One bill was acted on by other authorizing committees of the House and Senate, but not acted on by the House Committee on Agriculture, which contained provisions relating to matters within the Committee's jurisdiction. The following is a abbreviated summary of this bill:

# H.R. 1296, the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996

H.R. 1296, the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996, was the predecessor to H.R. 4236 (see Public Law 104–333 (H.R. 4236) under "1. Bills Enacted Into Law"). H.R. 1296 was reported by the Committee on Resources on August 4, 1996 (H.Rept. 104–234) and passed the House of Representatives on September 18, 1995.

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported H.R. 1296, as amended (S.Rept. 104–202) on January 5,

1996. On May 1, 1996, H.R. 1296 passed the Senate.

H.R. 1296 was then the subject of a House-Senate Conference with a Conference Report filed on September 24, 1996 (H.Rept. 104–836). This Conference Report was never considered by either body but lead to the introduction of H.R. 4236.

In addition to those sections affecting this Committee's jurisdiction described in H.R. 4236, H.R. 1296 contained the following ad-

ditional sections that were not included as part of H.R. 4236 which was later enacted into law as Public Law 104–333:

Section 701 relating to recreational fee charges by the Secretary of Agriculture on Forest Service lands; and

Section 1038 relating to the Secretary of Agriculture's authority under a Forest Service timber contract.

### 5. BILLS ACTED ON BY THE HOUSE BUT NOT THE SENATE

#### H.R. 714. Illinois Land Conservation Act

The Illinois Land Conservation Act of 1995 was introduced and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and in addition to the Committees on National Security, Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reported H.R. 714, as amended, on July 18, 1995 (H.Rept. 104–191 part I). The Committee on Agriculture reported H.R. 714, as amended on July 28, 1995 (H.Rept. 104–191 part II). H.R. 714 was then discharged from further consideration from the Committees on National Security and Commerce and passed by the House of Representatives by a voice vote pursuant to a unanimous consent request on July 31, 1995.

This bill would have converted the Army ammunition plant located at Joliet, Illinois, to a tallgrass prairie called the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. The Joliet Army Ammunition Plant (Arsenal) would have been converted by transferring part of the Arsenal from the Department of the Army to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Transfers amounted to about 1,600 acres to the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie that would be administered by the U.S. Forest Service and an additional 3,000 acres would be transferred when the Department of the Army completed an environmental cleanup that has begun on the property.

Under the bill's authority, the Army also would have transferred about 1,000 acres to the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish to a national cemetery; about 455 acres would be transferred to Will County, Illinois, to operate a landfill, and around 3,000 acres would be transferred by the State of Illinois for economic development.

The bill also makes all transfers without compensation unless the State sells the land in which case, the State would be obligated to reimburse the U.S. government for the fair market value of the

(*Note*.—For further action on this provision, see part II C "3. Vetoed Bills" and "2. Bills Acted on by the Committee Included in Other Laws Enacted" *supra*.)

H.R. 1527, to amend the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 to clarify the authorities and duties of the Secretary of Agriculture in issuing ski area permits on National Forest System lands and to withdraw lands within ski area permit boundaries from the operation of the mining and mineral leasing laws

H.R. 1527 was introduced and referred to the Committee on Resources with an additional referred to the Committee on Agri-

culture. On April 15, 1996, the Committee on Resources reported

H.R. 1527, as amended. (See H.Rept. 104–516 part I.)

In the report filed by the Committee on Resources is a copy of an exchange of letters between the respective Chairman of the Committees (Resources and Agriculture) explaining the reasons for expediting this legislation. Therefore, on April 15, 1996, the Committee on Agriculture waived a referral and was discharged from further consideration. The bill, H.R. 1527 was then passed by the House of Representatives on April 30, 1996 by a voice vote under suspension of the rules.

Major provisions of the bill—

(1) provided that the Secretary of Agriculture shall charge ski area permittees for rental of Forest Service lands under permit. Permittees with permits issued pursuant to a 1986 permit act shall be required to pay a rental charge calculated according to a new method outlined in this act. Permittees with permit issued pursuant and prior to the 1986 Permit Act are given the opportunity to use the new calculation system, but otherwise may continue to calculate their rental charge in accordance with their existing permits;

(2) sets forth the formula under the ski area permit rental charge (SAPRC) will be imposed and calculated for ski areas on or partially on National Forests, including Nordic ski areas. It directs annual adjustments of each revenue bracket's adjusted gross revenue figures by the percent increase or de-

crease in the Consumer Price Index;

(3) provides that scheduling of rental charge payments will be made on an annual basis, with monthly, quarterly or other payments or prepayments to be determined by the Forest Serv-

ice and individual ski areas;

(4) provides that the new legislated rental charges shall become effective on June 1, 1996 and cover receipts retroactive to June 1, 1995. However, if a permittee has paid rental charges for the period June 1, 1995, to June 1, 1996, under the existing graduated rate fee system formula, this payment constitutes a credit toward the new rental charge. To ensure that the United States would receive increased rental charge receipts during a three-year transition from the existing graduated rate fee system to the new system, a floor was placed on each individual ski area's payment under which every area would pay the higher of the 1994–1995 rental charge or the rental charge calculated;

(5) prohibits revenue or subpermittee revenue (other than lift ticket, area use pass, or ski school sales) obtained from operations located on non-National Forest land from being included

in the SAPRC calculation;

(6) defines revenue and sales, and provides, in cases where an area of National Forest land is under a ski area permit (but the permittee does not have revenue or sales qualifying for rental charge payment) payment of an annual minimum rental fee of \$2 per National Forest acre under permit, or percentage of appraised land value, as determined by the Secretary;

(7) directs that new rental charges be phased in over a fiveyear period for acres where the new rental charge results in an increase greater than one-half of 1 percent of the permittee's adjusted gross revenue;

- (8) states that the reissuance of a ski area permit to provide activities similar in nature and amount to those activities currently being provided at the ski area does not constitute a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act; and
- (9) withdraws lands under a ski area permit from appropriation under mining, mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws for the full term of the permit and its modification, reissuing, or renewal. It further provides that, unless requested by the Secretary, the withdrawal shall terminate automatically upon expiration or termination of the permit and that the land be made available for all uses not otherwise restricted under the public land laws.
- H.R. 2122, to designate the Lake Tahoe Basin National Forest in the States of California and Nevada to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes

H.R. 2122 was introduced and referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition, to the Committee on Agriculture. On September 4, 1996, H.R. 2122 was reported, as amended, by the Committee on Resources (H.Rept. 104–772 part I) and passed by the House of Representatives by a voice vote under suspension of the rules.

The bill designated the Lake Tahoe Basin National Forest, created from lands within the Tahoe, Eldorado, and Toiyobe National Forest. The legislation also designated the Lake Tahoe Basin National Forest to be a unit of the National Forest System, subject to the laws, rules and regulations applicable to the National Forest System.

(*Note*.—On August 15, 1996, the Committee on Agriculture waived further consideration of H.R. 2122 by letter to the Chairman of the Committee on Resources in the interest of expediting the passage of the legislation.)

H.R. 2670, Release of Reversionary Interest—Iosco County, Michigan

H.R. 2670 was reported, amended, by the Committee on Agriculture (H.Rept. 104–644) on June 27, 1996, and passed by the House of Representatives on August 1, 1996.

The bill was intended to clear title on 1.92 acres of real property in order to facilitate a land exchange under the Small Tracts Act of 1983. The 1.92 acres in real property was provided to Iosco County for an airport but a reversionary interest was retained by the United States in the event that property was ever used for another purpose. Due to a survey error, the property has been in private use. The private party has agreed to provide real property of equal value to Iosco County in exchange for 1.92 acres. A release of the reversionary interest held by the United States was necessary to carry out this exchange.

H.R. 2711, to provide for the substitution of timber for the canceled Elkhorn Ridge Timber Sale

H.R. 2711 was introduced and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition, to the Committee on Resources.

On September 4, 1996, the Committee on Resource reported (H.Rept. 104–761 part I) without amendment, and H.R. 2711 passed the House of Representatives by a voice vote under suspension of the rules.

The bill authorized the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to substitute, without competition, a contract for timber identified for harvest located on public lands administered by the BLM in the State of California of comparable value for the following terminated timber contract: Elkhorn Ridge Timber Sale, Contact No. CA-050-TS-88-01.

(*Note.*—On July 24, 1996, the Committee on Agriculture waived further consideration of H.R. 2711 by letter to the Chairman of the Committee on Resources in the interest of expediting the passage of the legislation in the House.)

H.R. 2941, to improve the quantity and quality of the quarters of land management agency field employees, and for other purposes

H.R. 2941 was introduced and referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition, to the Committee on Agriculture.

On September 17, 1996, H.R. 2941 was reported, amended by the Committee on Resources (H.Rept. 104–802 part I) and passed by the House of Representatives by a voice vote under suspension of the rules.

(*Note*.—In reporting H.R. 2941, the Committee on Resources removed all of the Committee on Agriculture's jurisdictional interest in H.R. 2941 which was based on its effect on living quarters for National Forest Service employees. Therefore, in an exchange of letters between the respective Chairmen of the Committees, the Committee on Agriculture waived its further consideration of the measure on August 29, 1996).

H.R. 3387, J. Phil Campbell Senior Natural Resource Conservation Center

H.R. 3387 was reported, by the Committee on Agriculture (H.Rept. 104–645) on June 27, 1996, and passed by the House of Representatives on August 1, 1996.

The bill was intended to designate the Southern Piedmont Conservation Research Center in Watkinsville, Georgia as the "J. Phil Campbell. Sr. Natural Resource Conservation Center." This designation was in recognition of Mr. Campbells' lifelong service to agriculture and conservation.

(*Note.*—H.R. 3387 was originally referred to the Committee on Resources when it was introduced on May 1, 1996. Mr. Hansen on May 14, 1996 initiated a rereferral of H.R. 3387 to the Committee on Agriculture by discharging the Committee on Resources from further consideration).

H.R. 3464, to make a minor adjustment in the exterior boundary of the Devils Backbone Wilderness in the Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri, to exclude a small parcel of land containing improvements

H.R. 3464 was reported, amended, by the Committee on Agriculture (H.Rept. 104–654 part I) on June 27, 1996 and passed by

the House of Representatives on August 1, 1996.

The bill was intended to provide relief to a private party who made improvements to the two acres in real property relying upon an incorrect survey. The improvements included a water well, mailing box, driveway, and garage. It is estimated that relevant property boundaries have been incorrectly described in surveys for the last 100 years. By excluding the two acres from the Devil's Backbone Wilderness, the bill would permit the invocation of the Small Tracts Act of 1983 which, in turn, would allow for a land exchange or other appropriate remedy.

(Note.—H.R. 3464 was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition, to the Committee on Resources. Committee on Resources was discharged from further consideration on June 27,

1996.)

### H.R. 3562, Wisconsin Works

H.R. 3562, a bill to authorize the State of Wisconsin to implement the demonstration projection known as "Wisconsin Works" was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition, to the Committees on Agriculture, Economic and Educational Opportunities, and Commerce.

On June 6, 1996, H.R. 3562 passed the House of Representatives,

as amended, by a vote of 363 yeas to 59 nays.

The Wisconsin Works Program offers its participants the opportunity to earn wages and to learn how to increase their value to employers. The consistent theme in the Wisconsin Works Program is the expectation of personal responsibility and the goal of independence and a promising future for welfare participants. However, this can not be done without reducing the mandates of the Federal Government.

Therefore, waivers with respect to the Food Stamp Program are incorporated in this bill to provide Wisconsin the ability to match its program with the Food Stamp Program in the areas of certification, employment and training programs, and work requirements. Additionally, for those persons in the Wisconsin Works Program who also receive food stamps, food benefits will be provided in cash. The Wisconsin program also includes a mandatory nutrition education program for which it believes for its participants to become self-sufficient, they need to know how to budget for food purchases, without the parameters specified by the use of food coupons. Wisconsin estimates that approximately half of the families receiving food stamps will be provided with cash instead of food stamps with the enactment of H.R. 3562.

## H.R. 3665, Census of Agriculture Act of 1996

H.R. 3665, a bill to transfer the authority to conduct the census of agriculture to the Secretary of Agriculture from the Secretary of Commerce was reported, amended, by the Committee on Agri-

culture (H.Rept. 104-653 part I) and passed by the House of Rep-

resentatives on July 22, 1996.

Every five years, a census of agriculture is conducted to gather county-level statistics on agriculture operations throughout the United States. The data is used to prepare estimates of farm income and production costs, evaluate agriculture programs and policies, to administer farm programs, and to plan for operations during disease or pest emergencies. The Farm Credit Administration uses the data to evaluate loan programs, while local and state authorities use the statistics to analyze and develop policies on land and water use, and to forecast future energy needs.

Over the past few years, it has become increasingly difficult for the Census Bureau to continue to be the lead agency for the Census of Agriculture because of budgetary constraints. The Agriculture Appropriations for FY 1997 (P.L. 104–180) provided funding for the Department of Agriculture to conduct the census.

(Note.—H.R. 3665 was referred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture. The Committee on Agriculture reported H.R. 3665, as amended, on June 27, 1996 after the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight waived further consideration in the interest of expediting passage of the legislation.)

H.R. 3900, to amend the Agricultural Market Transition Act to provide greater planting flexibility, and for other purposes

On July 26, 1996, H.R. 3900 passed the House of Representatives, as amended, after the Committee on Agriculture was discharged from further consideration.

The bill simply allows farmers to plant a secondary crop of fruits or vegetables on their farm program acreage following a crop which has failed earlier in the year. This practice, referred to as "ghost acres", has been allowed for several years, but was being disallowed due to the interpretation of the new farm bill (P.L. 104–127) by USDA. Allowing this practice clarifies the intent of Congress and does not violate the spirit or the letter of any agreements made on the issue of planting flexibility under the new farm bill.

The bill also requires the issuance of new regulations by the Department of Agriculture for the Conservation Reserve Program by September 15th. This requirement was needed because rural Americans had already waited too long to hear what the details of the new CRP program will be and needed to make decisions as to the future use of their land.

H.R. 4041, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey a parcel of unused agricultural land in Dos Palos, California, to the Dos Palos Ag Boosters for use as a farm school

H.R. 4041 passed the House of Representatives by a voice vote

under suspension of the Rules on September 27, 1996.

The bill authorizes the Department of Agriculture to convey a parcel of unused agricultural land in Dos Palos, California, which consists of approximately 22 acres, to the Dos Palos Ag Boosters to be used as a farm school. The Dos Palos Ag Boosters would pay the department the fair market value of the land in exchange for the rights, title, and interest to the parcel.

H. Con. Res. 181, expressing the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Agriculture should dispose of all remaining commodities in the disaster reserve maintained under the Agricultural Act of 1970 to relieve the distress of livestock producers whose ability to maintain livestock is adversely affected by the prolonged drought conditions existing in certain areas of the United States

For a description of H. Con. Res. 181, see the discussion on S. Con. Res. 63 in "6. Concurrent Resolutions Approved".

## Other bills

Several bills acted on by other authorizing committees of the House that passed the House of Representatives, but were not acted on by the Committee on Agriculture, contained provisions relating to matters within the Committee's jurisdiction. Following are abbreviated summaries of these bills:

# H.R. 9, Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act of 1995

H.R. 9, the Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act of 1995 was part of the "Contract With America" and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Commerce, Government Reform and Oversight, Budget, Rules, the Judiciary and Science.

On February 15, 1995, the Committee on Commerce and the Committee on Science reported H.R. 9 (H.Rept 104–33 part I and II). On March 3, the House struck all after section 1 and inserted in lieu thereof the provisions of a text composed as 4 divisions: (1) H.R. 830; (2) H.R. 925; (3) H.R. 926; and (4) H.R 1022, as each bill had been previously passed by the House of Representatives. H.R. 9 was then passed by the House of Representatives by a vote of 277 yeas to 141 nays.

Issues related to this Committee's jurisdiction, in H.R. 9 as passed included compensation for farmers and ranchers whose property had been devalued through regulatory action by the Federal government; congressional review of Federal agency rule-making action, including regulations issued by the Department of Agriculture, and requirements of USDA to perform risk assessment and cost benefit analyses with regard to regulatory actions.

(*Note*.—See also H.R. 925, and H.R. 1022 of this section "5. Bills Acted on By the House But Not the Senate".)

## H.R. 925, Private Property Protection Act of 1995

H.R. 925, the Private Property Protection Act of 1995, was introduced and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. On February 23, 1995, the Committee on the Judiciary reported H.R. 925, as amended (H.Rept. 104–46). On March 3, 1995, H.R. 925 passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 277 yeas to 148 nays. However, also on March 3, 1995, pursuant to the provision of H.Res. 101, the House incorporated the text of this measure, as passed by the House into H.R. 9, the Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act of 1995.

Issues related to this Committee's jurisdiction in H.R. 925 included compensation for farmers and ranchers whose property has

been devalued through regulatory action by the Federal government.

(*Note.*—See also H.R. 9, the Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act of 1995 in this section "5. Bills Acted on By the House But Not the Senate".)

# H.R. 961, Clean Water Amendments of 1995

H.R. 961, the Clean Water Amendments of 1995 was introduced and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

On May 2, 1995 the respective Chairman of this Committee by letter indicated to the Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, this Committee's right to a sequential referral based on the treatment and definition of wetlands under Federal law, which has a direct impact on the treatment of wetlands under the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, with regard to farmers and ranchers receiving Federal farm program benefits.

However, this Committee in the interest of expediting the consideration of H.R. 961 did not seek a sequential referral and H.R. 961 was then reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (H.Rept. 104–112) on May 3, 1995. On May 16, 1995, H.R. 961 passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 240 yeas to 185 nays.

### H.R. 1022, Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Act of 1995

H.R. 1022 was introduced and referred to the Committee on Science, and in addition to the Committees on Commerce, and Government Reform and Oversight.

On February 28, 1995, H.R. 1022 passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 286 years to 141 nays.

Issues of concern to this Committee included in H.R. 1022 related to the requirements of USDA to perform risk assessment and cost benefit analyses with regard to regulatory actions.

However, pursuant to provisions of H.Res. 101, the House incorporated the text of this measure, as passed by the House into H.R. 9 on March 3, 1995.

(*Note*.—See also H.R. 9, the Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act of 1995 in this section "5. Bills Acted on By the House But Not the Senate".)

## H.R. 1675, National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act of 1995

H.R. 1675 was introduced and referred solely to the Committee on Resources. However, when the Committee on Resources reported H.R. 1675, as amended, (see H.Rept. 104–218) it contained language regarding the use of chemicals and other pesticide control measures on two National Wildlife Refuges located in Oregon and California.

In July of 1995, the respective Chairmen of the Committees exchanged letters and the Committee on Agriculture waived its right to a sequential referral of the bill based on the bill's bipartisan support. H.R. 1675 was then passed by the House of Representatives on April 24, 1996 by a vote of 287 years to 138 nays.

H.R. 3322, Omnibus Civilian Science Authorization Act of 1996

H.R. 3322 was introduced and referred to the Committee on Science, and in addition to the Committee on Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, and National Security.

On May 1, 1996, the Committee on Science reported H.R. 3322, as amended (see H.Rept. 104–550 part I). On May 30, 1996, H.R. 3322 passed the House of Representatives which included provisions that would have disallowed the National Weather Service from performing tasks that the private sector could perform, thereby eliminating the Agricultural Weather Service.

(*Note*.—See also the discussion on H.R. 1756 in "7. Bills Reported to the House But Not Considered" and the discussion of H.R. 2491 in "3. Bills Vetoed").

## 6. CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS APPROVED

S. Con. Res. 63, to express the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Agriculture should dispose of all remaining commodities in the disaster reserve maintained under the Agricultural Act of 1970 to relieve the distress of livestock producers whose ability to maintain livestock is adversely affected by disaster conditions existing in certain areas of the United States, such as prolonged drought or flooding, and for other purposes

On June 5, 1996, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry was discharged from further consideration and S. Con. Res. 63 passed the Senate, as amended, by unanimous consent.

On June 12, 1996, the Committee on Agriculture was discharged from further consideration and S. Con. Res. 63 passed the House of Representatives by a voice vote under a unanimous consent request.

The Agricultural Act of 1970 established a national grain disaster reserve which is managed by the Commodity Credit Corporation, containing wheat, feed grains, and soybeans. The reserve can be released (sold to individual farmers) at the discretion of the Department of Agriculture in time of a presidentially-declared natural disaster, or if Congress were to pass aconcurrent resolution declaring that such reserves could be released. The grain reserve was holding about 46 million bushels of feed grains, worth an estimated \$200 million, which had not been used but held merely as a reserve in recent years.

This grain was in great need for use by farmers in parts of the United States, particularly in the Southern Plains, which had been plagued by drought since last fall. Livestock producers, in particular, were hurt by increased grain prices, diminished livestock prices, and the drought.

(*Note.*—On June 4, 1996, H. Con. Res. 181 (companion resolution to S. Con. Res. 63) passed the House of Representatives by a voice vote under suspension of the rule.)

#### 7. BILLS REPORTED TO THE HOUSE BUT NOT CONSIDERED

#### H.R. 1135

On March 7, 1995, the Committee considered and reported H.R. 1135, the Food Stamp Reform and Commodity Distribution Act, favorably to the House. The provisions of H.R. 1135 were incorporated into title V of H.R. 1214, the Personal Responsibility Act of 1995. The provisions of title V of H.R. 1214 were subsequently incorporated into title XI of H.R. 4.

(Note.—For discussion of H.R. 4, see Part II, C "3. Bill Vetoed"

supra.)

H.R. 1135 made extensive reforms to the food stamp program. Based on these reforms, projected growth in the food stamp program would have been reduced by \$21.4 billion over five years relative to preamendment law.

Four Department of Agriculture commodity distribution programs were also consolidated into a single distribution program. The bill authorized \$300 million per year through fiscal year 2000

to purchase commodities for distribution.

States were permitted to harmonize food stamp program rules with those of the state Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program for those families receiving benefits from both programs.

Monthly food stamp benefits were adjusted by two percent each

vear.

Deductions from income were maintained at preamendment levels.

The threshold above which the fair market value of vehicles is counted as an asset in determining eligibility was maintained at \$4.550.

Limits were placed on the eligibility of aliens.

Able-bodied individuals between the age of 18 and 50 who have no dependents must work 20 hours a week or participate in a state workfare or training program within 90 days of certification of their food stamp eligibility.

States may operate work supplementation or support programs under which the value of public assistance benefits, including food stamps, are provided to employers who hire recipients and, in turn, use the benefits to supplement the wages paid to the recipient.

The same penalty was applied for individuals failing to comply with the rules of a state TANF programs as those failing to comply with the food stamp recipient.

To encourage states to implement Electronic Benefit Transfer systems, states that have implemented EBT on a statewide basis were allowed to operate the food stamp program under a block grant.

Improved food stamp program management by the states were encouraged by establishing more strict quality control measures.

The amount of funds obligated by the Secretary were not to exceed the cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, with adjustments for additional fiscal years taking into account the amendments made by this bill.

## H.R. 1756, Department of Commerce Dismantling Act

H.R. 1756, the Department of Commerce Dismantling Act, was introduced and referred to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Banking and Financial Services, International Relations, National Security, Agriculture, Ways and Means, Government Reform and Oversight, the Judiciary, Science, and Resources.

The Committee on Agriculture examined matters contained in section 211(n)(3) of H.R. 1756 relating to the transfer of the seafood inspection services performed by the National Marine Fisheries Service, an agency of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to the Department of Agriculture.

The Committee also examined section 211 (l)(1)(A) and (m)(2)(A) that would have terminated "specialized agriculture" and "forestry weather services" of the National Weather Service and its "regional Climate Center".

The Committee made no recommendation regarding any change in the language of section 211(n)(3) as it related to seafood inspection transfer to the Secretary of Agriculture. However, with respect to section 211 (l)(1)(A) and (m)(2)(A) that would terminate specialized agriculture and forestry weather services of the National Weather Services, the Committee proposed amendments that had been recommended by the Department of Agriculture.

Based on the foregoing, the Committee, in order to expedite the consideration of H.R. 1756, requested that its language changes to H.R. 1756 be adopted and assuming that these changes were agreeable, agreed to waive its right to further consideration of the bill.

(*Note*.—On September 21, 1995 the Committee on Ways Means reported H.R. 1756, as amended (see H.Rept. 104–260 part I). However, for further discussion of provisions within the Committee's jurisdiction on H.R. 1756, see discussion of H.R. 2491 in part II C "3. Bills Vetoed", *supra*, and H.R. 3322 in part II C "5. Bills Acted on by the House But Not the Senate", *supra*.)

# H.R. 2130, Farmer Mac Reform Act of 1995

H.R. 2130, the Farmer Mac Reform Act of 1995, makes substantial changes in Title VII of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended, governing the secondary market for agricultural real estate and rural housing loans. These loans are originated by commercial banks and the cooperative farm credit system as well as by insurance companies and the securities are guaranteed by the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, also known as "Farmer Mac".

The bill would significantly change the way Farmer Mac does business by liberalizing the institution's charter, allowing it to pool loans in a similar fashion to other government-sponsored secondary markets (such as "Fannie Mae" and "Freddie Mac") and allowing it to assume greater credit risk by eliminating the requirement that each pool of loans must be backed up by a 10 percent subordinated interest or cash reserve. During the three-year period following the bill's enactment, Farmer Mac's statutory minimum capital requirements also would be liberalized. The Farm Credit Administration (FCA) Office of Secondary Market Oversight (OSMO) would be given an additional three years following enactment to implement risk-based capital requirements for Farmer Mac.

The legislation required Farmer Mac to recapitalize its core capital base to at least \$25 million within two years following enactment or within six months after Farmer Mac's aggregate on-balance sheet assets equal or exceed \$2 billion, whichever occurs first.

In addition, the legislation amended those sections of current law that would streamline Farmer Mac's business operations, such as requiring the Federal Reserve Banks to act as depositories and fiscal agents for Farmer Mac's securities and providing for Farmer Mac's access to the book-entry system of the Federal Reserve System.

(Note.—H.R. 2130 was referred primarily to the Committee on Agriculture. On January 4, 1996, when the Committee on Agriculture reported H.R. 2130, as amended (see H.Rept. 104–446 part I), the bill was then sequentially referred to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services for a period ending not later than March 15, 1996. On March 15, 1996 the Committee on Banking and Financial Service was discharged from further consideration and no further action was taken on H.R. 2130. However, some of the provisions of H.R. 2130 were incorporated by a Senate Amendment into H.R. 2029 which was enacted into Public Law 104–105. For a description of P.L. 104–105, see the discussion under part II C "1. Bills Enacted Into Law", supra.)

# H.R. 2275, to reauthorize and amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973

Prior to the introduction of H.R. 2275, confirmation of a memorandum of understanding that clarified the jurisdiction over certain legislation which effects endangered species was reached between the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Resources.

Therefore, when H.R. 2275 was introduced, it was referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture

On September 9, 1996, the Committee on Resources reported H.R. 2275, as amended (see H.Rept. 104–778 part I), and the Committee on Agriculture was discharged from further consideration. However, on January 23, 1996, the Committee on Agriculture stated in a letter to the Committee on Resources that it was convinced that the Committee on Resources had produced legislation that was in the best interests of agricultural producers and that it would not undertake further consideration of H.R. 2275.

### S. 1459, Public Rangelands Management Act of 1996

S. 1459, to provide for uniform management of livestock grazing on Federal lands, passed the Senate on March 21, 1996 and was referred to the Committee on Resources and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture on March 26, 1996.

On July 10, 1996, the Committee on Agriculture waived further consideration of S. 1459 in the interest of expediting its consideration in the House. Therefore, on July 12, 1996, the Committee on Resources reported S. 1459, as amended (see H.Rept. 104–674 part I).

Other bills

One bill was acted on by other authorizing committee of the House and reported, but not referred to or acted on by the Committee on Agriculture, which contained provisions relating to matters within the Committee's jurisdiction. Following is a abbreviated summary of this bill:

H.R. 2107, Visitor Services Improvement and Outdoor Legacy Act of 1996

H.R. 2107 as introduced was referred solely to the Committee on Resources. However on July 23, 1996, the respective Chairmen of these Committees exchanged letters and the Committee on Agriculture waived its right to a sequential referral of H.R. 2107 in the interest of expediting the consideration of the legislation in the House.

On September 4, 1996 the Committee on Resources reported H.R. 2107 as amended (see H.Rept. 104–757). This bill as amended, would have affected fees within National Forest System units not created from public domain that are within the jurisdiction of this Committee.

#### 8. BILLS DEFEATED IN THE HOUSE

None.

## 9. OTHER BILLS ACTED ON BY THE COMMITTEE

H.R. 1997, Food Stamp Flexibility and Commodity Distribution Consolidation Act of 1995

To provide flexibility to States in the administration of the Food Stamp Program, consolidation of the commodity distribution programs, and for other purposes.

On July 11, 1995, the Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture considered and reported H.R. 1997 to the full Committee. Many of the provisions of H.R. 1997 were incorporated into the Conference Report to H.R. 4. (Note: For discussion of the Conference Report to H.R. 4, see part II, C "3. Vetoed Bills" supra.)

The following, *inter alia*, are provisions from H.R. 1997 that were incorporated into the Conference Report to H.R. 4:

Greater state flexibility in administering the Food Stamp Program, including establishing certification periods, collecting overissuances, and operating state food stamp offices;

Authorization to use food stamp appropriated funds to carrying out a Food Stamp Program in American Samoa; and

Authorization to use food stamp appropriated funds to make grants to community food projects in order to promote community self-reliance and nutrition issues.

In addition to those provisions incorporated into the Conference Report to H.R. 4, H.R. 1997 made other reforms to the Food Stamp Program. H.R. 1997 also incorporated the substantive provisions of H.R. 236, which permitted food stamp recipients to purchase vitamins and minerals with food stamp benefits.

H.R. 2023, to provide for a land exchange between the Ironton Country Club of Ironton, Ohio, and the Secretary of Agriculture involving Wayne National Forest

The Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research, and Forestry reported H.R. 2023, amended, to the full Committee on May 30, 1996. The legislation authorized the Forest to exchange 141 acres of land with 134 acres owned by the Ironton Country Club. Any difference in apprised value of the tracts would be made up in cash by the Ironton Country Club.

## H.R. 2202, Immigration in the National Interest Act of 1995

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide a less bureaucratic alternative for the admission of temporary agricultural workers while safeguarding the interests of United States workers.

On August 4, 1995, Mr. Smith of Texas introduced H.R. 2202 to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to improve deterrence of illegal immigration to the United States by increasing border patrol and investigative personnel, by increasing penalties for alien smuggling and for document fraud, by reforming exclusion and deportation law and procedures, by improving the verification system for eligibility for employment, and through other measures, and to reform the legal immigration system and facilitate legal entries into the United States. H.R. 2202 was referred to the Committee on Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, National Security, Government Reform and Oversight, Ways and Means, and Banking and Financial Services for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

On March 5, 1996, the Committee considered and reported H.R. 2202 favorably to the House with an amendment adding subtitle B to title VIII. The Rules Committee ordered reported a resolution, H.Res. 384, for the consideration of H.R. 2202 as it would be considered by the House, but it did not include the amendment adopted by the Committee on Agriculture. Under H.Res. 384, the amendment to H.R. 2202 adopted by the Committee on Agriculture was offered by Messrs. Pombo and Chambliss as an amendment to H.R. 2202 during consideration of H.R. 2202 by the House. The amend-

ment failed by a vote of 180 to 242.

The amendment approved by the Committee on Agriculture reformed the temporary immigrant worker law by creating a threeyear pilot project in an effort to address concerns of both workers and employers. The amendment would streamline the Immigration and Nationality Act by reducing regulation and ensuring protection for workers. Under the amendment, employers would apply for immigrant work permits through the Department of Labor, which would process requests within seven days, rather than the present 60 days. Participating employers would also file a job order with their state job offices and would give preference to U.S. workers for the first 25 days. Domestic and immigrant laborers would receive Workers' Compensation coverage and be paid the prevailing wage in their area. In addition, guest workers could only work on a temporary basis and could never fill positions resulting from a labor dispute. The pilot program would limit the number of participants in the worker program.

In order to ensure compliance, the Department of Labor would investigate complaints from workers and third parties and impose monetary penalties and program debarment for violators. The program would generate no additional costs, as user-based fees would pay for all costs to administer the program.

# H.R. 2493, Food for Peace Reauthorization Act of 1995

To make modifications to international food aid programs.

On October 19, 1995, the Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture considered and reported H.R. 2493 to the full Committee. H.R. 2493 reauthorized and reformed the Food For Peace Program and Food For Progress Program. The provisions of H.R. 2493 were incorporated into subtitle A of title II of H.R. 2854, which was enacted as subtitle A of title II of Public Law 104–127. (Note: For a discussion of Public Law 104–127, see part II C "1. Bills Enacted into Law" supra.)

Under H.R. 2493, the Department of Agriculture may make sales to private entities in addition to foreign governments in keeping with a private sector emphasis.

A priority for P.L. 480 funds in developing countries was created to reflect the new emphasis on market development goals.

Funds to pay for the administrative costs for private voluntary organizations, cooperatives, and intergovernmental organizations that coordinate and distribute donations of U.S. agricultural commodities were increased to \$28 million.

Eligible organizations were allowed to carry out non-emergency programs in countries where the Agency for International Development does not have a presence.

Minimum tonnage levels for agricultural commodities were maintained at the 1995 level.

The current wheat reserve was modified to include corn, sorghum and rice in addition to wheat. The reserve is used to meet extraordinary humanitarian need.

## H.R. 2542, Conservation Consolidation and Regulatory Reform Act of 1995

The Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research and Forestry reported H.R. 2542, the Conservation Consolidation and Regulatory Reform Act of 1995 to the full Committee on November 8, 1995. The bill contained six titles and was an omnibus conservation bill amending several laws, including the Food Security Act of 1985.

The bill would have reestablished the Soil Conservation Service and would have consolidated many different USDA conservation programs into a single program providing technical and financial assistance to farmers and ranchers as well as establishing a new water quality program. The legislation amended the highly-erodible land conservation program as well as repealing several provisions contained in the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990.

#### D. OVERSIGHT

#### 1. LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

The Committee on Agriculture and its subcommittees were active in their oversight functions, holding a number of oversight hearings both in the field and in Washington, D.C., during the course of the 104th Congress. The hearings related to the application, administration, and effectiveness of laws that lie within the Committee's jurisdiction as well as the organization and operation of the Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies having responsibility for the administration of such laws. The hearings often resulted in recommendations for improvements in the administration of the laws, regulations and policies in effect in the Executive Branch as they related to the Committee's jurisdiction. Information gathered at these hearings was later useful in preparing legislation for consideration in the House of Representatives or in making recommendations to departmental or Federal agency representatives.

As part of its hearings on virtually every bill, the Committee and its subcommittees reviewed the way the particular Federal agency or department (usually the Department of Agriculture) administered existing laws related to the subject matter of the legislation before, or to be considered by, the Committee. In some cases, legislation favorably reported to the House carries a termination date (a "sunset") to ensure that in the future Congress will again review the effectiveness and the methods with which the Executive Branch of Government has carried out the letter and the spirit of

The Committee and its subcommittees in keeping with the objective of the Oversight Plan as submitted to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight (See "I. Summary of Organization, Jurisdiction, and Oversight Plan of the Committee on Agriculture" of this report for the complete Oversight Plan as submitted) conducted the following Oversight hearings during the 104th Congress which are listed chronological:

Oversight hearings, 104th Congress—chronological listing

February 1, 1995: To review the enforcement of the Food Stamp

Program.

The full Committee began its work in the 104th Congress with a hearing regarding reports and claims of waste and fraud in the Food Stamp Program. Testimony about enforcement problems in the program included testimony from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Inspector General, officials from the U.S. Secret Service and officials from the General Accounting Office, all of whom assist in the examination of the effectiveness and efficiency of the management of the program.

This hearing and other hearings by the Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture resulted in the introduction of H.R. 1135, the Food Stamp Reform and Commodity Distribution Act that was later incorporated into H.R. 4, the Personal Responsibility Act, which was ultimately vetoed by the President. However, a substantial number of the provisions of H.R. 1135 were later also incorporated into H.R. 3734 which became

Public Law 104-193.

(*Note*.—For further discussion of the provisions of the these bills see "C. Digest of Bills Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Which Some Action Has Been Taken".)

February 7, 8, 9, and 14, 1995. To review the present welfare system. Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and

Foreign Agriculture.

The Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture has the principal responsibility with respect to the oversight of the food stamp and several other nutrition programs. These hearings were instrumental in helping the subcommittee to develop "welfare reform" proposals that seek to lead those who receive program benefits away from long-term dependence on Federal welfare programs in order to better help such indi-

viduals reclaim their independence.

Testimony was received from Administration Officials, Governors, Members of Congress, Food Banks, etc. These hearings and other hearings conducted by the Full Committee resulted, as noted earlier, in the introduction of H.R. 1135, the Food Stamp Reform and Commodity Distribution Act that was later incorporated into H.R. 4, the Personal Responsibility Act, which was ultimately vetoed by the President. However, several provisions of H.R. 1135 were later incorporated into H.R. 3734 which became Public Law 104–193. (Note: For discussion of the provisions of the these bills see "C. Digest of Bills Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Which Some Action Has Been Taken".)

February 10, 1995: To review the timber salvage situation on public lands affected by insects, disease, and fire. Subcommittee on

Resource Conservation, Research, and Forestry.

This Subcommittee hearing was jointly held with the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Land of the Committee on Resources, chaired by Congressman James Hansen from Utah.

The Subcommittee received testimony and written statements for the record from 26 witnesses, representing a wide range of constituencies, as well as Members of Congress, and including forest product manufacturers, conservation groups, forest product employees, Federal regulatory agencies, forest researchers, university researchers, and private citizens. The testimony heard by the Subcommittee centered around the causes and effects of various Federal laws with respect to forest health, local economic conditions, timber employment, and endangered species. Particular attention was focused on last year's (1994) situation, in which roughly 78,000 wildfires burned 1.3 million acres of State and private lands, 1.5 million acres of National Forest System land, and 1.3 million acres of Department of Interior lands.

February 15, 1995: To consider the private property rights, protection and relevant legislation pending before the 104th Congress. Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research, and Forestry.

The Subcommittee heard testimony from 16 witnesses and received written testimony from 9 other individuals, (plus Members of Congress) representing Federal agencies, University professors, agricultural representatives, conservation groups, and private citizens. The purpose of this Subcommittee hearing was to consider private property rights in the context of regulatory actions taken by the Federal Government which have the effect of seriously im-

peding landowners and other private citizens' ability to make land use decisions.

This hearing was instrumental to the action taken by the House of Representatives on H.R. 925, the Private Property Protection Act of 1995 and H.R. 9, the Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act of 1995. (*Note.*—For discussion of these bills, see "C. Digest of Bills Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Which Some Action Has Been Taken".)

February 23, 1995: To consider how the Federal Tax Code impacts agriculture in terms of farm income and the ability to keep family farm and ranch operations in the family. Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities.

The Subcommittee heard testimony from 12 people (plus Members of Congress) representing agricultural groups, banking groups, and university researchers and it received written testimony from 3 additional people, representing agricultural producer groups. The Subcommittee heard testimony concerning the impact of several elements of the Federal Tax Code (including capital gains, health care insurance deductibility, and estate and gift taxes) on net farm income, small businesses, and local economic conditions in rural communities.

March 16, 1995: To review the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act. Subcommittee on Risk Management and Specialty Crops.

The Subcommittee met to consider legislation dealing with the reauthorization of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act ("PACA"), specifically H.R. 1103, introduced by Congressman Pombo from California.

The Subcommittee heard testimony from 15 witnesses, and received written testimony from 5 people. The interest groups represented by the witnesses included State agriculture departments, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, and a variety of food and agricultural groups. Testimony revolved around what changes to make in the current PACA that would improve its operations and make PACA more efficient, and how to ensure that the fees necessary to fund PACA are administered most equitably and adequately to perform its duties.

This hearing resulted in the enactment of Public Law 104–48. (*Note*.—For further discussion of Public Law 104–48, see "C. Digest of Bills Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Which Some Action Has Been Taken".)

March 23; April 18, 19, 20, 24, and 26, 1995: To consider the state of the American dairy industry and the status of the dairy title of the 1990 farm bill, as the committee reviews the formulation of the 1995 farm bill. Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry.

The Subcommittee held a series of hearings in Washington, DC, Eau Claire, WI, St. Paul, MN, Tulare, CA, Syracuse, NY, and Okeechobee, FL to receive testimony from dairy farmers, farm groups, dairy manufacturers, dairy policy analysts, USDA officials, State dairy officials, and other interested parties regarding dairy policy changes with respect to Federal dairy laws. Testimony was received regarding the dairy price support program, Federal milk marketing orders, the Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP), and dairy export opportunities.

These hearings ultimately contributed to the enactment of Public Law 104–127, which was enacted into law on April 4, 1996.

(*Note*.—For a discussion of Public Law 104–127, see "C. Digest of Bills Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Which Some Action Has Been Taken".)

March 28, 1995: To review the Federal Crop Insurance Act of 1994. Subcommittee on Risk Management and Specialty Crops.

The Subcommittee received testimony from 15 witnesses, representing USDA's Farm Service Agency and Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, agricultural groups, insurance groups, and grower associations, regarding issues concerning USDA's implementation of the changes to the crop insurance program as contained in Pub. L. 103–354 (the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994). Testimony was also received regarding suggested changes to the non-insured disaster assistance program and to the crop revenue insurance pilot program. Several changes to existing law regarding crop insurance were subsequently made and eventually incorporated into the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform (FAIR) Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–127). (Note.—For discussion of Public Law 104–127, see "C. Digest of Bills Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Which Some Action Has Been Taken".)

March 29, 1995: To review the Government acreage idling provisions and their impact on program commodity crops. Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities.

The Subcommittee received testimony from 10 witnesses representing USDA, producer groups, commodity groups, and farm policy analysts. The purpose of the Subcommittee hearing was to gather information regarding the economic and budgetary impacts of the Federal Government's continued use of acreage reduction programs as a method for (1) distributing farm program payments; and (2) controlling Federal budgetary outlays. The subject matter of this hearing, acreage reduction programs, was reflected in the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–127) which was enacted into law on April 4, 1996. (Note.—For discussion of Public Law 104–127, see "C. Digest of Bills Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Which Some Action Has Been Taken".)

March 30, 1995: To examine how Federal agencies conduct enforcement activities on Federal lands. Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research, and Forestry, Committee on Agriculture, held jointly with the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans of the Committee on Resources.

The Subcommittee heard testimony from seven people, all of whom were involved with, or interested in, the law enforcement activities of Federal agencies, particularly the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Specifically, the Subcommittee heard testimony about the conduct of U.S. Fish and Wildlife agents with respect to a recent incident in Idaho in which a grey wolf was shot soon after its reintroduction into Idaho by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

April 6, 1995: To consider agricultural wetlands and wetlands issues in the 1995 farm bill. Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research, and Forestry.

The Subcommittee received testimony from 13 individuals, representing USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, conservation groups, agricultural producer groups, State agriculture departments, and environmental analysts. Testimony was heard regarding the current regulatory situation faced by farmers with respect to wetlands delineations. There was also discussion regarding potential changes to the "Swampbuster" provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985 (Title XII), some of which were contained in leg-

islation introduced by Congressman Johnson, H.R. 932.

The subject matter of this hearing, wetlands regulation by USDA, was reflected in the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-127) which was enacted into law on April 4, 1996. (Note.—For discussion of Public Law 104–127, see "C. Digest of Bills Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on

Which Some Action Has Been Taken".)

April 18, 20, 27, 28; May 25; June 13, and 15, 1995: To review formulation of the 1995 Farm Bill (Cotton, Feed Grains, Wheat, Rice, and Oilseeds). Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities.

The Subcommittee held hearings in Grand Island, NE, Sioux City, IA, Vicksburg, MS, Woodward, OK, and Washington, DC to receive testimony regarding farm bill issues, specifically relating to how best to allow the Agriculture Committee to meet its obligations to reduce federal spending. The Subcommittee received testimony from over 100 witnesses, representing a broad spectrum of agricultural interests, including Members of Congress, USDA representatives, producer groups, commodity groups, rural interests, farm policy analysts, bankers, university researchers, conservation districts, irrigation districts, exporters, and private citizens. The purpose of the Subcommittee hearing was to gather information about the interests and suggestions of all witnesses regarding the best method for making farm program changes that would meet budget responsibilities while maintaining effective farm programs that ensure a continued abundant supply of high quality commodities.

The subject matter of these hearings on federal farm programs, was reflected in the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-127), which was enacted into law on April 4, 1996. (Note.—For discussion of Public Law 104-127, see "C. Digest of Bills Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on

Which Some Action Has Been Taken".)

April 18, May 18 and 24, 1995: To review formulation of the 1995 farm bill. Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research,

and Forestry.

The Subcommittee held hearings in Akron, Colorado, and Washington, DC to receive testimony regarding upcoming farm bill issues. In these three hearings, the Subcommittee received testimony from over 50 witnesses, representing a broad spectrum of agricultural interests, (plus Members of Congress), USDA representatives, State agriculture departments, producer groups, commodity groups, rural interests, farm policy analysts, bankers, university researchers, conservation districts, and private citizens. The Subcommittee heard testimony on a variety of issues, including acreage reduction programs, conservation programs, research programs, and farm credit/rural development programs. The purpose of these hearings was to gather information about the interests and suggestions of all witnesses with respect to the upcoming farm bill in the context of reduced Federal spending on agricultural programs in general.

The subject matter of these hearings on Federal farm programs, was reflected in the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–127) which was enacted into law on April 4, 1996. (Note.—For discussion of Public Law 104-127, see "C. Digest of Bills Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Which Some Action Has Been Taken".)

April 21, 25, 26; May 19 and 27, 1995: To review formulation of the 1995 farm bill. Full Committee.

The Committee held hearings in Stockton, CA, Lubbock, TX, Dodge City, KS, Normal, IL, and Boise, ID to receive testimony regarding farm bill issues, specifically how best to allow the Agriculture Committee to meet its obligations to reduce federal spending. The Committee received testimony from over 170 witnesses, representing a broad spectrum of agricultural interests, including Members of Congress, USDA representatives, producer groups, commodity groups, rural interests, farm policy analysts, bankers, university researchers, conservation districts, irrigation districts, exporters, and private citizens. The purpose of the Subcommittee hearing was to gather information about the interests and suggestions of all witnesses regarding the best method for making farm program changes that would meet budget responsibilities while maintaining effective farm programs that ensure a continued abundant supply of high quality commodities.

The subject matter of these hearings on federal farm programs, was substantially changed by the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–127) which was enacted into law on April 4, 1996. (Note.—For discussion of Public Law 104–127, see "C. Digest of Bills Within the Jurisdiction of the Com-

mittee on Which Some Action Has Been Taken".)

April 27 and June 24, 1995: To review formulation of the 1995 farm bill. Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and

Foreign Agriculture.

The Subcommittee held hearings in Portageville, MO, and Pendleton, OR, to receive testimony regarding upcoming farm bill issues. In these two hearings, the Subcommittee received testimony from over 30 witnesses, representing a broad spectrum of agricultural interests, (including Members of Congress), USDA representatives, State agriculture departments, producer groups, commodity groups, rural interests, farm policy analysts, bankers, university researchers, conservation districts, and private citizens. The Subcommittee heard testimony on a variety of issues, including acreage reduction programs, price support programs, conservation programs, research programs, export programs, farm credit/rural development programs, and the effects of Federal tax policy on the agricultural sector. The purpose of these hearings was to gather information about the interests and suggestions of all witnesses with respect to the upcoming farm bill in the context of reduced Federal spending on agricultural programs in general.

The subject matter of these hearings on Federal farm programs, was reflected in the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–127) which was enacted into law on April 4, 1996. (Note.—For discussion of Public Law 104–127, see "C. Digest of Bills Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Which Some Action Has Been Taken".)

April 27, 28; May 24; and June 8, 1995: To review formulation of the 1995 farm bill (sugar and peanut titles). Subcommittee on

Risk Management and Specialty Crops.

The Subcommittee held hearings in Belle Glade, FL, Albany, GA, and Washington, DC, to receive testimony regarding upcoming farm bill issues with respect to the sugar and peanut programs. In these four hearings, the Subcommittee received testimony from over 110 witnesses, representing a broad spectrum of agricultural interests (including Members of Congress), USDA representatives, State agriculture departments, producer groups, commodity groups, rural interests, farm policy analysts, bankers, university researchers, conservation districts, and private citizens. The Subcommittee heard testimony on a variety of issues facing the peanut and sugar programs, including environmental issues and trade issues. The purpose of these hearings was to gather information about the interests and suggestions of all witnesses with respect to potential changes to the sugar and peanut programs in the upcoming farm bill.

The subject matter of these hearings, the sugar and peanut Federal farm programs, resulted in amendments to existing law that was included in the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–127) which was enacted into law on April 4, 1996. (*Note.*—For discussion of Public Law 104–127, see "C. Digest of Bills Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Which Some Action Has Been Taken".)

May 9, 1995: To consider the effects of the elimination of the Wool and Mohair Program on the American sheep and wool indus-

try. Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry.

The Subcommittee received testimony from 8 individuals (including Members of Congress) from representatives of USDA, the sheep and wool industry, the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, and Montana State University. Testimony was heard regarding the current situation faced by sheep and wool producers; specifically, the economic implications of the elimination of the wool and mohair program, which is scheduled to end in April, 1997.

May 10, 1995: To review the Food Stamp Program and the Electronic Benefit Transfer System. Subcommittee on Department Op-

erations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture.

The Subcommittee received testimony from 14 witnesses, representing state social services departments, computer analysts, grocery manufacturers, child advocacy organizations, and departmental and Federal agency representatives. Testimony was presented relating to the use of an electronic benefit transfer ("EBT") system as a means to distribute food stamp benefits to eligible recipients. The subject matter of this hearing, EBT, was contained in the welfare reform provisions of H.R. 3734 which was signed into Public Law 104–193 on August 22, 1996. (*Note.*—For discussion of Public Law 104–193, see "C. Digest of Bills Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Which Some Action Has Been Taken".)

May 11 and June 14, 1995: To review the formulation of the 1995 farm bill. Full Committee.

The Committee held two hearings in Washington, DC, to continue receiving testimony regarding farm bill issues. The purpose of the first of these hearings was to receive testimony from USDA Secretary Dan Glickman regarding the Administration's suggestions and guidance on farm bill issues; the second was to receive testimony regarding agricultural trade issues. Secretary Glickman testified regarding the Administration's suggestions for price support/production adjustment, conservation, farm credit/rural development, nutrition, and export programs. In the second hearing, the Committee heard testimony from Secretary Glickman and other witnesses (representing the American Farm Bureau, the General Accounting Office, and trade industry analysts) regarding agricultural trade issues, specifically the implications of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade ("GATT") and the North American Free Trade Agreement ("NAFTA") on United States agriculture.

The subject matter discussed during these hearings was eventually reflected in the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–127) which was enacted into law on April 4, 1996. (*Note.*—For discussion of Public Law 104–127, see "C. Digest of Bills Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Which Some Action Has Been Taken".)

May 16, 18, 23, and 25, 1995: To review technical considerations in the formulation of the dairy title of the 1995 farm bill. Sub-

committee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry.

The Subcommittee held a series of hearings in Washington, DC, to receive additional testimony from dairy farmers, farm groups, dairy manufacturers, dairy policy analysts, USDA officials, State dairy officials, and other interested parties regarding technical dairy policy implications of the dairy title of the farm bill. The majority of the testimony received involved recommendations for redesigning the pricing system for milk (including the Basic Formula Price), and for the dairy export and promotion programs (including world trade opportunities and the appropriate role of the Federal Government in dairy promotion). The legislation regarding dairy policy discussed during these hearings was eventually reflected in one way or another into the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–127) which was enacted into law on April 4, 1996. (Note.—For discussion of Public Law 104–127, see "C. Digest of Bills Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Which Some Action Has Been Taken".)

June 8, 1995: To review the proposals included in the "Guidance of the Administration", to Reform the Food Stamp and Commodity Distribution Programs. Subcommittee on Department Operations,

Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture.

The Subcommittee received testimony from five witnesses, representing USDA's Food and Consumer Services, and several food distribution organizations. The purpose of the hearing was to review USDA's proposals regarding changes to USDA's food stamp and commodity distribution programs.

The subject matter of this hearing, changes to the food stamp and commodity distribution programs, impacted the welfare reform provisions of H.R. 3734 which was enacted into Public Law 104–193 on August 22, 1996. (*Note.*—For discussion of Public Law 104–

193, see "C. Digest of Bills Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Which Some Action Has Been Taken".)

June 21, 1995: To review Public Law 480, the Food for Peace Program. Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and

Foreign Agriculture.

The Subcommittee heard testimony from seven witnesses and received additional written testimony from four individuals, representing the U.S. Agency for International Development, USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, several world food relief and distribution organizations, and cooperative assistance associations. The purpose of the hearing was to review P.L. 480, the "Food for Peace" program, and to receive the opinions and recommendations of those organizations most familiar with its administration.

The subject matter of this hearing, P.L. 480, was reauthorized by the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 127) which was enacted into law on April 4, 1996. (*Note.*—For discussion of Public Law 104–193, see "C. Digest of Bills Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Which Some Ac-

tion Has Been Taken".)

October 20, 1995: To consider the importance of the Asia-Pacific region to the U.S. Agricultural Trade. Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities, Committee on Agriculture, jointly with the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific of the Committee on International Relations.

The Subcommittee held a hearing in Grand Island, NE, to receive testimony from interested persons regarding the importance of trade with the Asia-Pacific Rim Region to U.S. agriculture. The Subcommittee heard testimony from seven witnesses, representing USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service, commodity groups, agribusinesses, and university trade analysts. Testimony was received regarding the economic benefits derived by the U.S. agriculture sector from trade with the Asia-Pacific Rim, opportunities facing the U.S. agriculture sector in the future, and the need to continue to strive for reductions in trade barriers to U.S. agricultural products in this region.

October 25, 1995: To consider the rural development reforms in the Agriculture Regulatory Relief and Trade Act of 1995. Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research, and Forestry.

The Subcommittee heard testimony from eight witnesses, representing USDA's Rural Economic and Community Development organizations, a variety of rural development organizations, as well as several state and local economic development associations. The purpose of this hearing was to gather information about the interests and suggestions of all witnesses with respect to potential changes to the farm credit/rural development programs in the upcoming farm bill.

The subject matter of this hearing, rural development programs, was substantially reflected in the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–127) which was enacted into law on April 4, 1996. (*Note.*—For discussion of Public Law 104–127, see "C. Digest of Bills Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Which Some Action Has Been Taken".)

December 6, 1995: To review the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis. Sub-

committee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture.

The Subcommittee received testimony from USDA's Chief Economist and Director of Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis. The purpose of the hearing was to gather information regarding the effectiveness of USDA's Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis in making USDA's regulatory process more effective and efficient and less burdensome on those regulated. This Office was created as part of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, Pub. L. 103–354.

December 14, 1995: To review Agricultural Guest Worker Programs. Subcommittee on Risk Management and Specialty Crops, Committee on Agriculture, jointly with the Subcommittee on Immi-

gration and Claims, Committee on the Judiciary.

The Subcommittee heard testimony from 12 witnesses representing farm organizations, farmworker organizations, and university researchers, as well as statements from several interested Members of Congress, regarding seasonal guestworkers under the so-called H2–A Program administered by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice. Testimony was received regarding the benefits to United States agriculture from this program, current problems with the program's administration, and issues for future consideration as they might impact U.S. agriculture.

The subject matter of this hearing was added as a Committee on Agriculture amendment to H.R. 2202, the Immigration in the National Immigration in the National Interest Act of 1995, as reported by the Committee on Agriculture (H. Rept. 104–469 pt. 3 and pt. 4). However, in the House consideration of H.R. 2202 in the House of Representatives on March 21, 1996, in the Committee of the Whole House, the H2–A Program was not adopted. (*Note.*—For discussion of H.R. 2202, see "C. Digest of Bills Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Which Some Action Has Been Taken".)

March 1, 1996: To review the effectiveness of the Federal Crop Insurance Program for the damage done by Hurricane Opal. Sub-

committee on Risk Management and Specialty Crops.

The Subcommittee held a hearing in Headland, AL, to receive testimony from insurance agents, producer groups, state agriculture officials, and farmers regarding the effectiveness of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation programs in covering crop damage done by Hurricane Opal. Testimony was received concerning the particular damage done to local producers during the 1995 crop year, as well as several comments and criticisms regarding USDA's implementation of catastrophic crop insurance protection.

March 27, May 14, and July 17, 1996: To evaluate the goal, priority setting, and advisory mechanism of Federal programs in agricultural research, education, and extension. Subcommittee on Re-

source Conservation, Research, and Forestry.

The Subcommittee held 3 hearings in Washington, DC, and received testimony from over 30 witnesses regarding the evaluation of Federal programs in agricultural research, education, and extension. The Subcommittee heard testimony from over 30 witnesses, representing USDA and a wide variety of research, education, and extension specialists and analysts. The purpose of this hearing was

to gather information about the interests and suggestions of all witnesses with respect to how to use available Federal research dollars most effectively and efficiently while addressing possible future decline in Federal funding.

Most research, education, and extension programs were reauthorized for two years by the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-127) which was enacted into law on April 4, 1996. (*Note.*—For discussion of Public Law 104–127, see "C. Digest of Bills Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Which Some Action Has Been Taken".)

Because most programs will expire at the end of two years, the information gathered by Subcommittee in these hearings will be important in crafting future legislation (presumably the 105th Congress) for Federal agricultural research, education, and extension

April 24; May 2, 22; and June 6, 1996: To consider meat and poultry inspection systems of foreign countries and to compare them to the Federal and State inspection systems in the United

States. Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry.

The Subcommittee held a series of 4 hearings in Washington, DC, to receive testimony relating to the issue of meat, poultry, and

seafood inspection in the United States.

The purpose of the first hearing was to examine meat and poultry inspection systems of foreign countries and to compare them to the Federal and State inspection systems in the United States. During the first hearing, testimony was received from New Zealand, the European Commission, Australia, and Canada regarding

meat inspection practices and regulations in those countries.

The purpose of the second hearing was to examine the utility, efficacy, and regulatory status of implementing microbial intervention technologies with respect to processing meat and poultry products. During the second hearing, testimony was received from various university researchers, agribusinesses, and USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service regarding food service industry inspection technologies either currently employed or being studied for possible adoption.

The purpose of the third hearing was to examine the basic elements of existing seafood inspection programs. During the third hearing, testimony was received from that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Food and Drug Administra-

tion regarding seafood inspection.

The purpose of the fourth hearing was to examine the issue of the existing Federal prohibition on the interstate shipment of state-inspected meat and poultry products. During the fourth hearing, testimony was received from State departments of agriculture, private meat processing companies, and USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

May 15 and 16, 1996: To Review the trading practices and procedures of the National Cheese Exchange. Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry, jointly with the Subcommittee on Risk

Management and Specialty Crops.

In keeping with the Committee's oversight plan to review commodity marketing systems and market prices where anomalies are detected, the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry and the Subcommittee on Risk Management and Specialty Crops held joint oversight hearings regarding allegations of potential price manipulation on the National Cheese Exchange in Green Bay. Changes in the price of cheddar cheese on the Exchange are used by USDA as the primary mover of the monthly Basic Formula Price for milk. These oversight hearings resulted in proposals by USDA to use a significantly broader sample of prices paid for milk used to manufacture cheddar cheese when calculating the Basic Formula Price.

May 18, 1996: To review agricultural trade between the United States and Canada. Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities.

The Subcommittee held a hearing in Coeur d'Alene, ID, to receive testimony regarding agricultural trade between the U.S. and Canada. The Subcommittee heard testimony from several United States commodity groups, Idaho commodity groups, grain export groups, timber groups, and USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. The Subcommittee heard testimony describing both the negative and positive effects of trade with Canada on the State and local economies, as well as suggestions for further reductions in trade restraints in order to provide continued benefits and opportunities for United States agricultural commodity and silviculture products.

June 5, 1996: To consider trade opportunities in the Pacific Rim. Full Committee.

The purpose of the hearing was to receive testimony regarding trade opportunities in the Pacific Rim, with special emphasis on trade issues with China with regard to the continuation of MFN status under the Jackson-Vanik amendment to the 1974 Trade Act. The Committee heard testimony from Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, the U.S. Trade Representative, and several international trade policy organizations. The Committee heard testimony regarding the benefits of open trade, as well as several particular issues regarding activities by foreign countries that were harming various sectors of U.S. agriculture.

July 24, 1996. To review the status of the Hedge-To-Arrive Contracts. Subcommittee on Risk Management and Specialty Crops.

The purpose of this Subcommittee hearing was to gather information regarding the status of various hedge-to-arrive commodity exchanges, and country elevators contracts, specifically to find out how the Commodity Futures Trading Commission may plan to deal with several situations across the country that involve hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of hedge-to-arrive grain contracts that are threatening to adversely affect farmers and country elevators and their credit providers. The Subcommittee received testimony from the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Ohio State Department of Agriculture, the Chicago Board of Trade, and several grain marketing organizations.

July 25, 1996: To conduct oversight on the processor-funded milk promotion program. Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poul-

The purpose of the hearing was to receive testimony regarding the administration of the National Fluid Milk Processor Education Program. Testimony was received from USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, the National Fluid Milk Processor Promotion Board, the International Dairy Food Association, and the New York State Dairy Foods Association.

July 30, 1996: To review the National Soybean Promotion Pro-

gram. Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities.

The purpose of the hearing was to receive testimony regarding the National Soybean Promotion Program; to hear from soybean producers who were opposed to the mandatory nature of the referendum voting procedure, and especially the procedure for obtaining a new referendum for certain producers dissatisfied with current procedures. The Subcommittee heard testimony from USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, the American Soybean Association, the Iowa Soybean Promotion Board, the United Soybean Board, and several soybean producers.

September 12, 1996: To consider the competitiveness in agriculture trade and the effect of State Trading Enterprises on our

U.S. exports. Full Committee.

The purpose of this hearing was to examine competitiveness issues relating to U.S. agricultural trade and the effect of State Trading Enterprises on U.S. exports. Testimony relating to trade opportunities, continued barriers to U.S. exports, and implications of the new U.S. domestic farm policy on agricultural exports was received from a variety of witnesses, including USDA's Deputy Secretary Romminger, various U.S. commodity groups, export associations, and trade coalitions. Witnesses provided the Committee with a broad variety of information regarding trade barriers, trade opportunities, and particular effects of trade policy on domestic agriculture sectors.

September 19, 1996: To review the Conservation Reserve Program and the Implementation of the Conservation Title of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform ("FAIR") Act of 1996.

Full Committee.

The Committee held an oversight hearing to examine the implementation issues regarding USDA's administration of the conservation title of the FAIR Act; specifically, to question USDA witnesses about implementation of the Conservation Reserve Program. Testimony from USDA's Deputy Secretary Romminger was received regarding USDA's intentions for implementation of the Conservation Reserve Program, the Wetlands Reserve Program, and other changes to the Sodbuster and Swampbuster (title XII) provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985. Members of the Committee questioned several USDA officials regarding specific regulatory items relating to the Conservation Reserve Program and highly erodible land issues, and wetlands delineations.

September 24, 1996: To review the status of the Florida tomato industry. Subcommittee on Risk Management and Specialty Crops.

The purpose of the Subcommittee hearing was to examine the issues surrounding Florida-Mexican tomato trade, including the increase of winter vegetable imports from Mexico. Testimony was received from U.S. growers, local government officials, and others involved with the winter vegetable industry regarding the negative effects of increased Mexican winter vegetable imports on Florida's \$6.2 billion agriculture industry.

September 25, 1996: To consider the current status of exports of U.S. dairy, poultry, and egg products into Canada, and the poten-

tial impact of the preliminary decision of the NAFTA panel on that trade. Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry.

Despite the movement toward free trade evidenced by NAFTA and the Uruguay Round of the GATT, Canada refuses to open its markets to U.S. dairy, poultry, and egg produce.

The dispute over Canadian tariffs on U.S. dairy, poultry and egg products is currently before a five-member NAFTA disputes resolution panel which is expected to render a decision on the controversy adverse to U.S. interests..

Testimony was heard from the Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA, and the Senior Counselor and Negotiator for Japan and Canada, a representative of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, on ensuring Canada's future compliance with fair trading practices.

#### 2. INVESTIGATIVE OVERSIGHT

The Committee and the Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition and Foreign Agriculture were also active in investigative oversight activities. Congressional investigations, often adversarial and confrontational, sustain Congress's role which maintain the integrity of our constitutional scheme of separated powers and permit the Congress to oversee the implementation and regulation of its legislative initiative enacted into law.

Investigative hearings, 104th Congress—chronological listing

May 8, 1996: To investigate the use of Food Stamp Program funds to obtain services from private contractors. Full Committee. September 18, 1996: To investigate the contracting practices and other activities of the Department of Agriculture relating Team Nutrition. Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture.

The former Chairman of the Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee, Bill Emerson, wrote the Secretary of Agriculture on July 25, 1995, and raised several serious issues related to Team Nutrition, a project initiated by the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services. In October 1995, a review by the General Accounting Office (GAO) of Team Nutrition contracting practices and other matters was requested by Chairman Pat Roberts and the Chairman of the Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee, Bill Emerson.

The GAO investigation, its conclusions, and the Committee and Subcommittee hearings are comprised of three parts: the May 8, 1996, Committee hearing to investigate the use of food stamp program funds to obtain services from private contractors; the August 8, 1996, report submitted to Chairman Roberts from GAO regarding the employment of Team Nutrition officials and the travel of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services; and the September 18, 1996, Subcommittee hearing to investigate the contracting practices and other activities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture relating to Team Nutrition.

## May 8, 1996, Committee investigative hearing

On May 8, 1996, the Committee held a hearing to review the use of Food Stamp Program funds to obtain services from private contractors. Testimony was received from representatives of GAO, the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, and

Celinda Lake. All testimony was received under oath.

During the course of its investigation of the USDA Team Nutrition project and contracts, GAO found a subcontract that was unrelated to the overall prime Team Nutrition contract. That subcontract was with Lake Research, a polling firm run by Celinda Lake who frequently polls for Democrat candidates. Over a dinner meeting (February 16, 1995) with Ellen Haas, the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, Celinda Lake was effectively hired to run four focus groups in Topeka, Kansas and Indianapolis, Indiana, the home states of the Chairmen of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees. USDA paid \$33,000 from money appropriated for the Food Stamp Program to gather the opinions from people who are registered to vote, voted in the last Presidential election, are between the ages of 30 and 65 and are white. The opinions of these "swing voters" were sought on food stamp program reforms and changing the name of the food stamp program.

GAO found that USDA failed to comply with the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 and the simplified procedures set forth in the Federal Acquisition Regulations which require federal agencies to solicit price quotations from at least

three sources.

GAO also found that USDA failed to comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act. That Act requires federal agencies planning to collect information from the public must publish a notice in the Federal Register and get review and approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). GAO found that the failure to do so deprived federal officials of the opportunity to independently review the need for and the propriety of these focus groups.

GAO determined that the methods used by USDA to conduct these focus groups were inconsistent with achieving the results set

forth in its own contract.

GAO determined USDA exercised questionable judgment in con-

ducting virtually every aspect of this work.

Chairman Roberts, in a statement to the Under Secretary at the hearing, cited the fear of reprisals expressed by USDA employees as a serious problem. He advised the Under Secretary that the Committee would be watching closely to insure that no reprisals are taken against career employees of the Food and Consumer

Service as a result of this investigation.

The Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services testified that by hiring Lake Research to conduct focus groups, the intention of USDA was to assist in their preparation of USDA's proposals to reform the food stamp program. The Under Secretary acknowledged the problems with the way the research was conducted and the way it was managed. The Under Secretary apologized and advised the Committee of steps taken to prevent this from occurring in the future.

Celinda Lake testified that Lake Research was hired to conduct focus groups to test responses to food assistance reforms and general attitudes toward the Food Stamp Program. Ms. Lake maintained that the work of Lake Research was conducted on the same basis and terms as would be done for other clients.

August 8, 1996, GAO Report on Team Nutrition Hiring and Travel

On August 8, 1996, GAO submitted a report on several issues related to the employment of certain Team Nutrition officials and the travel of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services. This investigation and the report were prepared at the request of the Chairman of the Committee and the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign

Agriculture.

Through the intervention of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, a person previously known to the Under Secretary, was hired on April 24, 1995, on an expedited basis as the Team Nutrition Project Manager. Proper personnel rules were ignored in order to accommodate the quick hiring of this person. The Project Manager was allowed to work four days per week (10 hours/day), a highly unusual event for senior managers. The Project Manager's job application was incomplete, internally inconsistent, and contained false statements regarding her academic credentials. Her initial salary was based on her written statement alone and then increased after only 60 days on the job.

When asked for an explanation of her prior salary (after the initiation of the GAO review), the Project Manager claimed the value of pro bono work at the White House (1993–1994) and from other

questionable sources.

The GAO found that because only a perfunctory review was made of the Project manager's paperwork related to her employment history and prior salary, USDA was not aware of the potential problems with the credentials. GAO also found that USDA did not have an adequate basis for establishing the former Project Manager's salary and that the former Project Manager failed to submit the required financial disclosure statement within 30 days of employment. The former Project Manager did not submit the required statement until a year after it was due.

The GAO referred this matter (academic credentials and prior salary) to the USDA Office of the Inspector General on July 3, 1996, for further investigation. The Inspector General, in turn, referred this matter to the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, which accepted it for investigation on July 12, 1996.

## September 18, 1996, Subcommittee Hearing

The September 18, 1996, Subcommittee hearing was called to receive testimony pertaining to the contracting practices and other activities of the USDA relating to Team Nutrition. Testimony was received from representatives from GAO and the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services. All testimony was received under oath.

The GAO testified that Team Nutrition contracts, cooperative agreements, grants, and personnel management practices exhibited

a pattern of poor management and, in some cases, violations of federal procurement law and ethics regulations. These obligations, made on behalf of the federal government, reflect poor management and questionable judgement. Private contractors started work without the knowledge of the prime contractor or the USDA contracting officials. People were hired and there was no record of work that was done until long after payment was made.

Several subcontractors had ties to the Democratic Party.

Poor management and questionable judgment were evidenced on all contracts, subcontracts, grants and agreements.

Normal contracting procedures were not followed.

The Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services was involved in a significant number of the contracts, grants, and agreements.

Additional costs were incurred due to mismanagement.

Work was done by subcontractors before contracts were signed. In some contracts and grants, work was not completed, documented, or was in dispute.

Some of the subcontracts were outside the scope of the contract. The USDA contracting office was unaware of some contracts before work was begun.

Federal ethics regulations were violated by the Under Secretary

for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services.

The GAO investigation and testimony at the September 18, 1996, hearing revealed significant problems related to the management of Team Nutrition.

The Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services testified that she recognized the importance of the procurement and contracting issues rased by GAO and described the corrective actions taken by USDA. The Under Secretary maintained that she committed no violations of federal ethics regulations and that through her confidential assistant she recused herself regarding the award of a grant to a personal friend.

September 5, 12, and 24, 1996: To consider authorization in the issuance of subpoenas to witnesses for a subsequent hearing on alleged violations of the Hatch Act and related laws by USDA employees. Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and

Foreign Agriculture.

In late 1994, the Los Angeles Times and other news media reported that in the fall of 1992, several employees in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) solicited political contributions from other career Civil Service employees at USDA and that those who solicited or contributed were subsequently promoted to more senior or powerful positions. Because of the serious nature of these allegations, and the need to assure that the USDA and its programs are administered without regard to political party affiliation or patronage in contravention of the provisions of the Hatch Act and related laws, the Committee initiated its own investigation in 1995 and obtained the detail of a General Accounting Office (GAO) attorney/investigator to the Committee payroll to assist. The Committee personnel interviewed numerous current and former USDA employees, uncovered documents, and obtained affidavits and unsworn declarations made under penalty of perjury. This evidence disclosed violations of civil and criminal prohibitions as well as some denials of such violations among employees at USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the predecessor

organization to USDA's Farm Service Agency.

The information gathered by the Committee was provided to the Department of Justice, which began its own investigation based on earlier request from the Chairmen of the House Agriculture Committee and the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee to the Attorney General to appoint Independent Counsel Donald Smaltz to investigate the matter. However, Attorney General Janet Reno, denied that request and referred the matter to the Department of Justice, Public Integrity Section of the Criminal Division. The Chairman agreed to the Department of Justice's subsequent repeated requests to delay hearings on the matter to avoid jeopardizing a case the Department of Justice might bring as a result of its own investigation.

In the summer of 1996, the investigation was turned over to the Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture. That Subcommittee met on September 5 and 12 and authorized the Chairman to issue subpoenas for the attendance of

witnesses.

On September 24, the Subcommittee conducted an investigative hearing on this matter, taking testimony from the Committee's investigator, senior USDA officials, those involved in soliciting contributions, and individuals who were solicited. The Subcommittee also heard from representatives from the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) which enforces the Hatch Act and the Department of Justice.

Eleven days before the hearing, based in large part on information uncovered by the Committee, on September 13, 1996, three former and one current USDA employee plead guilty to conspiring with each other to solicit political contributions from USDA and promising special employment benefits to those who contributed. On December 13, two of the former defendants were sentenced to 30 days of incarceration for their conduct. All of the defendants were also given two years probation and required to donate 100 hours or more in community service and fines were also imposed. The hearing helped depoliticize the USDA career Civil Service

The hearing helped depoliticize the USDA career Civil Service community, and should help assure civil servants throughout government that they need not tolerate pressure to make political donations to keep their jobs or advance their careers. The Committee also obtained a commitment from USDA to be place additional emphasis on compliance with the Hatch Act and related laws, and requested that the Office of Special Counsel conduct special outreach sessions with USDA to assure this conduct is not repeated there.

#### E. PRINTED HEARINGS

Acreage Idling Government Provisions and Their Impact on Program Commodity Crops. Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities. March 29, 1995. Serial 104–10.

Administration's Proposals to Reform the Food Stamp and Commodity Distribution Programs. Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture. June 8, 1995. Serial 104–16.

Agricultural Guest Worker Programs. Subcommittee on Risk Management and Specialty Crops of the Committee on Agriculture and Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims of the Committee on the Judiciary. Joint Hearing. December 14, 1995. Serial 104–24.

Agricultural Trade Between the United States and Canada. Sub-committee on General Farm Commodities. Field Hearing. May 18 (Couer D'Alene, ID), 1996. Serial 104–31.

Agricultural Trade, the Importance of the Asia-Pacific Region. Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities of the Committee on Agriculture and the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific of the Committee on International Relations. Joint Field Hearing. October 20 (Grand Island and Lincoln, NE), 1995. Serial 104–25.

Commodity Futures Trading Commission; Reauthorization of. Subcommittee on Risk Management and Specialty Crops. H.R. 618.

February 28, 1995. Serial 104–6.

Conservation Reserve Program and the Implementation of Conservation Title of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996. Review of Full Committee, September 19, 1996. Serial 104–40.

Dairy and Livestock Producer Protection Act of 1996. Sub-committee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry. H.R. 3762. July 11, 1996. Serial 104–33.

Dairy, Poultry, and Egg Trade with Canada and the Impact of the Impending NAFTA Panel Decision, Review of. Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry. September 25, 1996. Serial 104–43.

Evaluation of Federal Programs in Agricultural Research, Education, and Extension. Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research, and Forestry. March 27, May 14, and July 17, 1996. Serial 104–27.

Family Pet Protection Act and the Pet Safety and Protection Act. Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry. H.R. 3393 and H.R. 3398. August 1, 1996. Serial 104–37.

Farm Bill, Formulation of the 1995. Full Committee. April 21 (Stockton, CA); April 25 (Lubbock, TX); April 26 (Dodge City, KS); May 19 (Normal, IL); and May 27 (Boise, ID), 1995. Serial 104–8, Part 1.

Farm Bill, Formulation of the 1995. Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research and Forestry. April 18 (Akron, CO); May

18, and May 24, 1995. Serial 104–8, Part 2.

Farm Bill, Formulation of the 1995 (Cotton, Feed Grains, Wheat, Rice and Oilseeds). Subcommittee of General Farm Commodities. April 18 (Grand Island, NE), April 20 (Sioux City, IA), April 27 (Vicksburg, MS), April 28 (Woodward, OK), May 25, June 13 and June 15, 1995. Serial 104–8, Part 3.

Farm Bill, Formulation of the 1995. Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture. April 27 (Portageville, MO), and June 24 (Pendleton, OR), 1995. Serial 104–

8, Part 4.

Farm Bill, Formulation of the 1995 (Sugar and Peanut Titles). Subcommittee on Risk Management and Specialty Crops. April 27 (Belle Glade, FL); April 28 (Albany, GA); May 24, June 8, 1995. Serial 104–8, Part 5.

Farm Bill, Formulation of the 1995 (Dairy Title). Subcommittee on Dairy, Livestock, and Poultry. March 23; April 18 (Eau Claire, WI); April 19 (St. Paul, MN); April 20 (Tulare, CA); April 24 (Syra-

cuse, NY); and April 26 (Okeechobee, FL), 1995. Serial 104–8, Part 6.

Farm Bill, Formulation of the 1995 (The Administration's View). Full Committee. May 11 and June 14, 1995. Serial 104–8, Part 7.

Farm Bill, Formulation of the 1995 (Dairy Title—Technical Corrections). Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry. May 16, 18, 23, and 25, 1995. Serial 104–8, Part 8 (final).

Farm Regulatory Relief, Consideration of. Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research, and Forestry. July 27, 1995. Serial 104–20.

Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, Status of and the Farmer Mac Reform Act of 1995. Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research, and Forestry. H.R. 2130. December 7, 1995. Serial 104–23.

Federal Crop Insurance Program, Effectiveness of for Damage Done by Hurricane Opal. Subcommittee on Risk Management and Specialty Crops. Field Hearing. March 1 (Dothan, AL), 1996. Serial 104–26.

Federal Crop Insurance Reform Act of 1994. Subcommittee on Risk Management and Specialty Crops. March 28, 1995. Serial 104–9.

Federal Lands; Federal Law Enforcement on. Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research, and Forestry, Committee on Agriculture, and Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans, Committee on Resources. March 30, 1995. Serial 104–11.

Federal Tax Code; Effects of on Farmers, Ranchers, and Rural Communities. Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities. February 23, 1995. Serial 104–5.

Florida Tomato Industry, Status of. Subcommittee on Risk Management and Specialty Crops. Field hearing. September 24 (Lake Worth, FL), 1996. Serial 104–44.

Food Quality Protection Act of 1995. Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture. H.R. 1627. May 16, 1995. Serial 104–15.

Food Stamp Act of 1977, Review of the (Permit Purchase of Vitamins and Minerals). Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture. H.R. 236. July 25, 1995. Serial 104–19.

Food Stamp Program and Electronic Benefit Transfer Systems. Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture. May 10, 1995. Serial 104–13.

Food Stamp Program; Enforcement of. Full Committee. February 1, 1995. Serial 104–1.

Hedge-to-Arrive Contracts, Review the Status of. Subcommittee on Risk Management and Specialty Crops and the Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities. July 24, 1996. Serial 104–34.

Investigation of the Use of Food Stamp Program Funds to Obtain Services From Private Contractors. Full Committee. May 8, 1996. Serial 104–29.

Investigation of the Violation of the Hatch Act and Other Related Laws. Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture. September 5, 12, 24, 1996. Serial 104–42.

Land Transfers and Boundary Modifications; Consideration of Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research, and Forestry. H.R. 701, H.R. 714, and H.R. 1874. July 13, 1995. Serial 104–18.

Meat, Poultry, and Seafood Inspection in the United States, Consideration of Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry. April 24, May 2, 22, and June 6, 1996. Serial 104–28.

National Cheese Exchange, Review of the Trading Practices and Procedures of the. Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry, and the Subcommittee on Risk Management and Specialty Crops. May 15, 16, 1996. Serial 104–30.

National Soybean Checkoff Program, Review of the Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities. July 31, 1996. Serial 104–36.

Perishable Agricultural Commodity Act. Subcommittee on Risk Management and Specialty Crops. March 16, 1995. Serial 104–7.

Private Property Rights Protection. Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research, and Forestry. February 15, 1995. Serial 104–3.

Processor-Funded Milk Promotion Program, Oversight of the. Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry, July 25, 1996. Serial 104–35.

Public Law 480, the Food for Peace Program, Review of. Sub-committee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture. June 21, 1995.

Rural Development Reforms in the Agriculture Regulatory Relief and Trade Act of 1995, Consideration of. Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research, and Forestry. October 25, 1995. Serial 104–21.

Team Nutrition, Investigation of the Contracting Practices and Other Activities of the Department of Agriculture relating to. Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture. September 18, 1996. Serial No. 104–41.

Timber Salvage Situation on Public Lands Affected by Insects, Disease and Fire. Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research, and Forestry. February 10, 1995. Serial 104–4.

Tongass Timber Reform Act. Subcommittee on Resource Conservation and Forestry; joint with Committee on Resources. July 11, 1996. Serial 104–38.

Trade Opportunities in the Pacific Rim. Full Committee. June 5, 1996. Serial 104–32.

U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Risk Assessment and Cost Benefit Analysis, Review of. Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture. December 6, 1995. Serial 104–22.

Welfare System; Reforming the Present. Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture. February 7, 8, 9, 14, 1995. Serial 104–2.

Wetlands Issues and Consideration of Agricultural Wetlands in the 1995 Farm Bill. Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research, and Forestry. April 6, 1995. Serial 104–12.

Wool and Mohair Program; Effects of the Elimination on the American Sheep and Wool Industry. Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry. May 9, 1995. Serial 104–14.

#### F. HEARINGS NOT PRINTED

Full Committee. Open business meeting. Organizational meeting. January 11, 1995.

Full Committee. Open business meeting. To complete Committee

organization. February 7, 1995.

Full Committee. Open business meeting. To approve Committee oversight plan, pursuant to Committee Rule V a. February 14, 1995.

Subcommittee on Risk Management and Specialty Crops. Open business meeting. Ordered reported by voice vote H.R. 618, Commodity Futures Trading Commission Reauthorization Act to the full Committee. February 28, 1995.

Full Committee. Open business meeting. Ordered reported, H.R. 1135, Food Stamp Reform and Commodity Distribution Act, amended, by record vote 26 ayes-18 nays to House. March 7-8, 1995.

Full Committee. Open business meeting. Ordered reported, H.R. 618, Commodity Futures Trading Commission Reauthorization Act,

by voice vote to House. April 4, 1995.

Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture. Open business meeting. Ordered reported H.R. 1627, Food Quality Protection Act, amended by voice vote to full Committee. May 23, 1995.

Full Committee. Open business meeting, H.R. 1627, Food Quality

Protection Act. June 20, 1995.

Subcommittee on Risk Management and Specialty Crops. Open business meeting. Ordered reported by voice vote H.R. 1103, Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act Amendments of 1995, as amended, to the full Committee. June 21, 1995.

Full Committee. Open business meeting. Ordered reported by voice vote H.R. 1103, Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act

Amendments of 1995, as amended, to House. June 28, 1995.

Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture. Open business meeting. Ordered reported by voice vote H.R. 1997, Food Stamp Flexibility and Commodity Distribution Consolidation Act of 1995, as amended, to the full Committee. July 11, 1995.

Full Committee. Open business meeting. Ordered reported by voice vote H.R. 701, Land Conveyance, Rolla, MO, as amended; H.R. 1874, Expansion of Talladega National Forest, Alabama, as amended; and H.R. 714, Illinois Land Conservation Act, as amended, to House. July 18, 1995.

Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research, and Forestry. Open business meeting. Ordered reported by voice vote H.R. 2029, Farm Credit System Regulatory Relief Act of 1995, as amended, to

full Committee. July 28, 1995.

Full Committee. Open business meeting. Ordered reported by voice vote H.R. 436, Edible Oil Regulatory Reform Act, as amended, to House. Consideration of Reconciliation Provisions for Committee on Agriculture. September 20, 1995.

Full Committee. Consideration of Reconciliation Provisions for Committee on Agriculture. Chairman to forward letter to Chairman, Committee on the Budget, and Speaker advising that the

Committee came to no resolution. September 27, 1995.

Subcommittee on Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture. Open business meeting. Ordered reported by voice vote H.R. 2493, Food for Peace Reauthorization Act. as amended, to full Committee. October 19, 1995.

Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research, and Forestry. Open business meeting. Ordered reported by voice vote H.R. 2542, Conservation Consolidation and Regulatory Reform Act, as amended, to full Committee. November 8, 1995.

Full Committee. Open business meeting. Ordered reported by voice vote H.R. 2029, Farm Credit System Regulatory Relief Act, as amended, to House. Ordered reported by voice vote H.R. 2130, Farmer Mac Reform Act, as amended, to House. December. 13, 1995

Full Committee. Open business meeting. Ordered reported H.R. 2854, Agricultural Market Transition Act, amended, by record vote (29 ayes–17 nays) to House. January 30, 1996.

Subcommittee on Risk Management and Specialty Crops. Public Field Session. Trade issues relating to potato production in Maine.

Presque Isle, ME. February 23, 1996.

Full Committee. Open business meeting. Ordered reported H.R. 2202, Immigration in the National Interest Act, as amended, by record vote (28 ayes-11 nays-1 present) to House. March 5, 1996.

Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research, and Forestry. Open hearing. H.R. 1223, Land acquisition authority for San Bernardino, Cleveland, and Angeles National Forests, California; H.R. 2023, Land Exchange, Wayne National Forest, Ohio; H.R. 3387, Designation of J. Phil Campbell Senior Natural Resource Conservation Center; H.R. 2670, Release of reversionary interest regarding certain property in Iosco County, MI; H.R. 3464, Boundary adjustment, Devils Backbone Wilderness, Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri; and H.R. 3541, Land exchange with city of Greeley, CO May 30, 1996.

Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research, and Forestry. Open business meeting. Ordered reported by voice vote to full Committee: H.R. 2023, as amended, Land exchange, Wayne National Forest Ohio; H.R. 3387, Designation of J. Phil Campbell, Senior Natural Resource Conservation Center: H.R. 2670, as amended. Release of reversionary interest regarding certain property in Iosco County, MI; and H.R. 3464, as amended, Boundary adjustment, Devils Backbone Wilderness, Mark Twain National Forest, Mis-

souri. May 30, 1996.

Full Committee. Open business meeting. Consideration of Committee on Agriculture recommendations to the Committee on the Budget to comply with H. Con. Res. 178. June 11, 1996.

Full Committee. Open business meeting. Ordered reported Committee on Agriculture recommendations to the Committee on the

Budget to comply with H. Con. Res. 178. June 13, 1996.

Full Committee. Open business meeting. Ordered reported by voice vote to the House: H.R. 2670, amended, Release of Reversionary Interest-Iosco County, Michigan; H.R. 3387, J. Phil Campbell Senior Natural Resource Conservation Center; H.R. 3464, amended, Boundary adjustment: Devils Backbone Wilderness; H.R. 3665, amended, Census of Agriculture Act of 1996; and H.R. 1627, amended, Food Quality Protection Act of 1996. June 19, 1996.

Full Committee. Open business meeting. Reorganization of Committee. September 12, 1996.

## G. COMMITTEE PRINTS

Compilation of Agricultural Research, Education, and Extension, and Extension Questions for Discussion. December, 1995.

Compilation of Agriculture Laws Related to Research, Education, and Extension (As amended through the end of the 104th Congress). November, 1996.

## III. APPENDIX

## A. EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

176—January 17, 1995; letter from the Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, transmitting a report entitled, "U.S.-Canadian Food Safety: Opportunities for Sharing Information and Coordinating Inspections".

514—March 10, 1995; letter from the Acting Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to recover costs

of establishing standards for agricultural products.

618—March 28, 1995; letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act and the Egg Products Inspection Act to recover the full costs for Federal inspection of meat, poultry and egg products performed at times other than an approved primary shift.

701—May 2, 1995; letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to recover costs of car-

rying out Federal marketing agreements and orders.

760—May 2, 1995; letter from the Assistant Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting two final rule amendments under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide

820—May 2, 1995; letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's fiscal year 1994 Annual Report to Congress on progress in conducting environmental remedial action at federally owned or operated facilities, pursuant to Public Law 99–499, Section 120(e)(5) (100 Stat. 1669).

967—June 6, 1995; letter from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting the Department's report to Congress on State Log Export Ban, pursuant to section 620c(b)(4) of the Forest Resources Con-

servation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990, as amended.

971—June 7, 1995; letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the annual report on foreign investment in U.S. agricultural land through December 31, 1994, pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 3504.

1000—June 7, 1995; letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting the fifth in a series of Annual Reports on the subject of Intermarket Coordination, pursuant to Public Law 101–432, Section 8(a) (104 Stat. 976).

1001—June 7, 1995; letter from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's report on

Intermarket Coordination, pursuant to Public Law 1101–432, Section 8(a) (104 Stat. 976).

1062—June 15, 1995; letter from the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's March 1995 "Treasury Bulletin".

1127—June 29, 1995; letter from the Acting Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to amend and extend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended, for 2 years.

1191—July 13, 1995; letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to expand and streamline a Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program by providing for loans and grants and to authorize appropriations for business telecommunications partnerships, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1110.

1280—July 28, 1995; letter from the Chief, Forest Service, trans-

1280—July 28, 1995; letter from the Chief, Forest Service, transmitting the Department of Agriculture's Annual Report of the Forest Service accomplishments, purguent to 16 U.S.C. 1602

est Service accomplishments, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1602.

1310—September 6, 1995; letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled the "Packers and Stockyards Licensing Fee Act of 1995".

1311—September 6, 1995; letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Omnibus User Fee Act of 1995".

1357—September 6, 1995; letter from the Secretaries of Agriculture and Transportation, transmitting a copy of a study on aviation inspections, pursuant to section 306 of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994.

1360—September 7, 1995; letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled the "Livestock Dealer Trust Act of 1995".

1413—September 8, 1995; letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting notification of the intention of the Departments of the Army and Agriculture to interchange jurisdiction of civil works and national forest lands at Lake Ouachita in the State of Arkansas, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 505a.

1515—October 11, 1995; letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation for the Conservation Title of the 1995 farm bill.

1586—November 1, 1995; letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Secretary's views regarding H.R. 4, the "Personal Responsibility Act".

4, the "Personal Responsibility Act".

1658—November 13, 1995; letter from the Assistant Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the annual report on conditional registration of pesticides during fiscal year 1994, pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 136w–4.

1659—November 13, 1995; letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting legislative language for the Federal Crop Insurance title of the 1995 farm bill.

1673—November 13, 1995; letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting the Department's

report entitled "Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Wetlands:

Special Statistical Report, July 1995".

1714—November 20, 1995; letter from the Director, Corporate Financial Audits, General Accounting Office, transmitting a report on the 1995 fiscal year interest rate on rural telephone bank loans, pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 948(b)(3).

1726—November 30, 1995; letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled "Rural

Performance Partnership Initiative Act of 1995".

1818—December 11, 1995; letter from the Executive Director, National Forest Foundation, transmitting a copy of the Foundation's annual report for fiscal year 1995, pursuant to Public Law 101–593, Section 407(b) (104 Stat. 2973).

1996—Jan. 31, 1996; letter from the Secretaries of the Army and Agriculture, transmitting notification of the intention of the Departments of the Army and Agriculture to interchange jurisdiction of civil works and national forest lands at the Sam Rayburn Dam and Reservoir Project and Angelina and Sabine National Forest, Texas, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 505a.

2024—February 6, 1996; letter from the General Sales Manager, Foreign Agricultural Service, transmitting notification that the minimum quantity of agricultural commodities prescribed to be distributed under title III of Public Law 83-480 during fiscal year

1995 has been amended, pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 1721(b).

2213—March 8, 1996; letter from the Assistant Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a final rule under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA),

pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 136w(a)(4). 2267—March 20, 1996; letter from the Assistant Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the annual report on conditional registration of pesticides during fiscal year 1995,

pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 136w-4.

2465—April 24, 1996; letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule— Grading and Inspection, General Specification for Approved Plants and Standards for Grades of Dairy Products; United States Standards for Nonfat Dry Milk (DA-93-03 FR), pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2466—April 24, 1996; letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule— Olives Grown in California and Imported Olives; Establishment of Limited Use Olive Grade and Size Requirements During the 1995-96 Crop Year (FV-95-932-1), pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2467—April 24, 1996; letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule— Hazelnuts Grown in Oregon and Washington; Order Further Amending Marketing Order (FV-94-982-1 FR), pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2468—April 24, 1996; letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule-Milk in the Central Arizona Marketing Area; Suspension (DA-96-

03 FR), pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2469—April 24, 1996; letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final ruleLimes and Avocados Grown in Florida; Suspension of Certain Volume Regulations and Reporting Requirements (FV-95-911-2 IFR),

pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2470—April 24, 1996; letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Winter Pears Grown in Oregon, Washington, and California Order Amending the Order (FV-92-065), pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2471—April 24, 1996; letter from the Acting Under Secretary for Food Safety, Food Safety and Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Use of Sodium Citrate Buffered with Citric Acid in Certain Cured and Uncured Processed Meat and Poultry Products (RIN: 0583—AB97), pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2472—April 24, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—United States Standards for Barley

(RIN: 0580—AA14), pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2520—April 25, 1996; letter from the General Sales Manager and Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation, transmitting the annual report on monetization programs for U.S. fiscal year 1994,

pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 1431(b)(9)(B).

2544—April 25, 1996; letter from the Secretary of Treasury, transmitting the Department's report on Financial Market Coordination and Regulatory Activities to Reduce Risks in the Financial System in 1994 and 1995, pursuant to Public Law 101–432, Section 8(b) (104 Stat. 976).

2645—April 29, 1996; letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled the "Work First and Personal Responsibility Act of 1996".

2646—April 30, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Fresh Cut Flowers and Fresh Cut Greens Promotion and Information Order; Suspension of Late Payment Charges (FV–96–702 IFR). Received April 30, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2647—April 30, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Salable Quantities and Allotment Percentages for the 1996–97 Marketing Year (FV–96–985–1 IFR). Received April 30, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A). 2648—April 30, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural

2648—April 30, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Grading and Inspection, General Specification for Approved Plants and Standards for Grades of Dairy Products; United States Standards for Grades of Monterey Jack Cheese (DA–91–010B). Received April 30, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2649—April 30, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's interim rule—Karnal Bunt (Amendment of Quarantined Areas Interim Rule) (Docket No. 96–016–5). Received April

30, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2650—April 30, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rules—(1) Export Certificates (Cyclical Review) (Docket No. 90–117–3), (2) National Poultry Improvement Plan and

Auxiliary Provisions (Docket No. 94–091–2), (3) Imported fire ant (Docket No. 95-063-2), (4) Horses from Bermuda and the British VI; VEE Quarantine Requirements (Docket No. 95–052–2), and (5) Allow New Vaccine for Brucellosis (Docket No. 96-015-1). Received April 30, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2651—April 30, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Food and Consumer Service, transmitting the Service's final rule-Food Stamp Program: Failure to Comply with Federal, State, or Local Welfare Assistance Program Requirements (RIN: 0584-AC08). Re-

ceived April 30, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A). 2691—May 1, 1996; letter from the Acting Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Early Warning Reporting Requirements, Minimum Financial Requirements, Prepayment of Subordinated Debt, Gross Collection of Exchange—Set Margin for Omnibus Accounts and Capital Charge on Receivables from Foreign Brokers (RIN: 3038–AB11 and 3038–AB12). Received May 1, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2692-May 1, 1996; letter from the Acting Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Ethics Training for Registrants (RIN: 3038–AB09). Received May 1, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A). 2741—May 2, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural

Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Sheep and Wool Promotion, Research, Education, and Information Order (Docket No. LS-94-015). Received May 2, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2742—May 2, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Standards for Grades of Slaughter Cattle and Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef (Docket No. LS-94-009). Received May 2, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2743—May 2, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Nectarines and Peaches Grown in California; Relaxation of Quality Requirements for Fresh Nectarines and Peaches (Docket No. FV95-916–5FR). Received May 2, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2744—May 2, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Avocados Grown in South Florida; Assessment Rate (FV95-915-1IFR). Received May 2, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2745—May 2, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Revision of User Fees for 1996 Crop Cotton Classification Services to Growers (CN-96-001—FR). Received May 2, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2800—May 6, 1996; letter from the Chief, Forest Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Disposal of National Forest System Timber; Modification of Timber Sale Contracts in Extraordinary Conditions (Interim Final Rule) (RIN: 0596-AB58). Received May 3, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2839—May 7, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Sweet Onions Grown in the Walla Walla Valley of Southeast Washington and Northeast Oregon; Assessment Rate (FV96-956-2IFR). Re-

ceived May 6, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2840—May 7, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Irish Potatoes Grown in Washington; Assessment Rate (FV96-946-2IFR). Received May 6, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2841—May 7, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule-Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Assessment Rate (FV96–985–2IFR). Received May 6, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A). 2842—May 7, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural

Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Milk in the Southeast Marketing Area (DA-95-22FR). Received May 6, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2864—May 8, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Milk in the New York-New Jersey and Middle Atlantic Marketing Area; Suspension (DA-96-02 FR). Received May 8, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2865—May 8, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Amendment of General Regulations for Marketing Orders; Adding Stipulation Procedures (FV-95-900-1 FR). Received May 8, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2866—May 8, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Florida Grapefruit, Florida Oranges and Tangelos, and Florida Tangerines; Grade Standards (Docket No. FV-93-301). Received May 8, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2867—May 8, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Melons Grown in south Texas; Change in Cantaloupe Container Requirement (Docket No. FV96-979-1 FIR). Received May 8, 1996, pursu-

ant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2895—May 9, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Sheep and Wool Promotion, Research, Education, and Information: Certification and Nomination Procedures for the Proposed National Sheep Promotion, Research, and Information Board (Docket No. LS-94-015A). Received May 9, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2896—May 9, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Sheep Promotion, Research, and Information Program: Rules and Regulations (Docket No. LS-95-010). Received May 9, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2897—May 9, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Agreements for the Development of Foreign Markets for Agricultural Commodities (RIN: 0051-AA24). Received May 9, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2961—May 14, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Small Business Innovation Research Grants Program; Administrative Provisions (RIN: 0524–AA08). Received

May 13, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

2962—May 14, 1996; letter from the Administrator and Executive Vice President, Farm Service Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rules—(1) Final Rule: 1995—Crop Sugarcane and Sugar Beets Price Support Loan Rates (RIN: 0560-AE44) and (2) Final Rule: Dairy Indemnity Payment Program (RIN: 0560-AE57). Received May 10, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3027—May 15, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule-Importation of Embryos from Ruminants and Swine from Countries Where Rinderpest or Foot-and-Mouth Disease Exists [APHIS Docket No. 94–006–2]. Received May 13, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3028—May 15, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Import-Export User Fees [APHIS Docket No. 92–174–2]. (RIN: 0579–AA67). Received May 15, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3036—May 16, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—RUS Specification for Aerial Service Wires (7 CFR Part 1755,700—,704). Re-

ceived May 16, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3071—May 20, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Onions Grown in South Texas; Change in Regulatory Period (FV95-959-3FR). Received May 17, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A). 3072—May 20, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coor-

dinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Tuberculosis in Cattle, Bison, and Cervids; Payment of Indemnity (APHIS Docket No. 94-133-2). Received May 20, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3098—May 21, 1996; letter from the Under Secretary for Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Business and Industrial Loan Program—Audit Requirements (RIN: 0570–AA11). Received May 20, 1996, pursuant

to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3127—May 22, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Processed Fruits and Vegetables, Processed Products Thereof, and Certain Other Processed Food Products Regulations Governing Inspection and Certification (Docket No. FV-96-326). Received May 22, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3179—May 29, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Vegetables; Import Regulations; Modification of Regulatory Time Periods for Imported Onions (Docket No. FV95-980-1FR). Received May

22, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3180—May 29, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Rangland Research Grants Program; Administrative Provisions (Workplan Number: 95–006). Received May 24, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3181—May 29, 1996; letter from the Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Wetlands Reserve Program (RIN: 0560—AE83). Received May 22, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3182-May 29, 1996; letter from the General Sales Manager, Foreign Agricultural Service, transmitting the Service's final rule— Regulations Governing the Commercial Sales of Agricultural Commodities (RIN: 0551–AA43). Received May 24, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3183—May 29, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—7 CFR Part 6—Import Quotas and Fees; Final Rule to Eliminate Certain Obsolete Subparts (RIN: 0551-AA46). Received May 24, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3224—May 30, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Fluid Milk Promotion Order; Final Rule [DA-96-07]. Received May 30, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3293—May 30, 1996; letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled the "Plant Protection Act".

3294—May 30, 1996; letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled the "Animal Health Protection Act"

3295—June 4, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Idaho-Eastern Oregon Onions; Assessment Rate (Docket No. FV96-958-2IFR). Received May 31, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3296—June 4, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Oregon-California Potatoes; Assessment Rate (Docket No. FV96-947-1IFR). Received May 31, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3297—June 4, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Southeastern Potatoes; Assessment Rate (Docket No. FV96-953-1IFR). Received May 31, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3369—June 5, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Tobacco Inspection; Growers' Referendum Results (Docket No. TB-95-18).

Received May 30, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A). 3370—June 5, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Papayas Grown in Hawaii; Assessment Rate (FV-96-928-1 IFR). Received

May 31, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3425—June 5, 1996; letter from the Secretaries of the Army and Agriculture, transmitting notification of the intention of the Departments of the Army and Agriculture to interchange jurisdiction of civil works and Forest Service lands at the Corps of Engineers project at Applegate Lake, Oregon, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 505a, 505b.

3431—June 6, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Order-Increase in Importer Assessments (Docket No. LS-96-001 FR). Received May

30, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3517—June 12, 1996; letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentages for Class 1 (Scotch) Spearmint Oil the 1995–96 Marketing Year (Docket No. FV96–985–1FIR). (7 CFR Part 985). Received June 11, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3518—June 12, 1996; letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Order—Amendment of the Rules and Regulations to Add HTS Code for Flavored Honey [AMS—FV–96–701.FR]. (7 CFR Part 1240). Re-

ceived June 11, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3571—June 13, 1996; letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Tobacco Inspection; Growers' Referendum Results (Docket No. TB–95–13). Received June 13, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3572—June 13, 1996; letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Tobacco Inspection; Growers' Referendum Results (Docket No. TB–95–15). Received June 13, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3573—June 13, 1996; letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Hazelnuts Grown in Oregon and Washington; Assessment Rate (Docket No. FV96–982–1IFR). Received June 13, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3574—June 13, 1996; letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Increased Assessment Rate for Domestically Produced Peanuts Handled by Persons Not Subject to Peanut Marketing Agreement No. 146 and for Marketing Agreement No. 146—Regulating the Quality of Domestically Produced Peanuts (Docket No. FV96–998–1IFR). Received June 13, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3575—June 13, 1996; letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Apricots Grown in Designated Counties in Washington; Temporary Suspension of Minimum Grade Requirements (Docket No. FV96–922–1IFR). Received June 13, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3610—June 13, 1996; letter from the Vice President of the United States, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled the "Everglades and South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Act of 1996".

3612—June 17, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Mediterranean Fruit Fly; Removal of Quarantined Areas (APHIS Docket No. 91–155–19). Received June 14, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3686—June 18, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Viruses, Serums, and Toxins and Analogous Products; Master Labels (Docket No. 93–167–2). Received

June 17, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3713—June 19, 1996; letter from the Regulatory Review Officer, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Apricots Grown in Washington; Temporary Suspension of the Minimum Grade Requirement (Docket No. FV-96-922-1IFR). Re-

ceived June 18, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3714—June 19, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Cranberries Grown in the States of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington, and Long Island in the State of New York (Docket No. FV–96–929–1FR). Received June 18, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3715—June 19, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado; Assessment Rate (Docket No. FV–96–948–1IFR). Received June 18, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3716—June 19, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Fresh Cut Flowers and Fresh Cut Greens Promotion and Consumer Information Order—Postponement of Assessment (Docket No. FV–96–702FR). Received June 18, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3717—June 19, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Limes and Avocados Grown in Florida; Relaxation of Container Marking Requirements (Docket No. FV–96–911–4IFR). Received June 19, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3718—June 19, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California; Revision of Container Requirements (Docket No. FV-95-925-1FIR). Received June 19, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3719—June 19, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Irish Potatoes Grown in Washington; Modification of the Minimum Size Requirements (Docket No. FV-96-946-1FR). Received June 19,

1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3741—June 20, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Nectarines and Peaches Grown in California; Revision of Handling Requirements for Fresh Nectarines and Peaches (Docket No. FV95–916–4–FR). Received June 20, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3742—June 20, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Specialty Crops; Import Regulations; Peanut Import Regulations; Final Rule (Docket No. FV94–999–2FR). Received June 19, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3743—June 20, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Japanese Beetle; Domestic Quarantine and Regulations (Docket No. 95–087–1). Received June 20, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3762—June 24, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—1996 Amendment to Cotton Board Rules and Regulations Adjusting Supplemental Assessment on Imports—Final Rule (Docket No. CN–96–002). Received June 21, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3805—June 25, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Screening at Privately Owned Bird Quarantine Facilities (APHIS Docket No. 94–132–2). Received June 25,

1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3806—June 25, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Viruses, Serums, Toxins, and Analogous Products; Rabies Vaccine, Killed Virus and Rabies Vaccine, Live Virus (APHIS Docket No. 95–012–2). Received June 25, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3807—June 25, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Pork and Pork Products From Mexico Transiting the United States (APHIS Docket No. 93–093–2). Received June 25, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3808—June 25, 1996; letter from the Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Redesignation of Emergency Livestock Assistance Regulations (Commodity Credit Corporation) (7 CFR Part 1475). Received June 21, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3809—June 25, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program (RIN: 0572–AB22). Received

June 24, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3848—June 26, 1996; letter from the Assistant Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Notification for Pesticide Registration Modifications (OPP–300110; FRL–5372–8). (RIN: 2070–AC98). Received June 20, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3849—June 26, 1996; letter from the Assistant Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Pesticide Worker Protection Standard; Decontamination Requirements [OPP-250108A; FRL-5358-8]. (RIN: 2070-AC93). Re-

ceived June 20, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3850—June 26, 1996; letter from the Assistant Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Pesticide Worker Protection Standard; Language and Size Requirement for Warning Sign [OPP-250107A; FRL-5358-7]. (RIN: 2070–AC93). Received June 20, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3860—June 27, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Almonds Grown in California; Order Amending the Order (FV 93–981–1). Received June 27, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3861—June 27, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Order Amending the Order (FV)

95–985–4). Received June 27, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3862—June 27, 1996; letter from the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Food Stamp Program: Automated Data Processing Equipment and Services; Reduction in Reporting Requirements (Food and Consumer Service) (RIN: 0584-AB92). Received June 26, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3863—June 27, 1996; letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Notification Procedures for Pesticide Registration Modification (FRL-5372-8). Re-

ceived June 27, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3864—June 27, 1996; letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Pesticide Worker Protection Standard; Language and Size Requirements to Warning Sign (FRL-5358-7). Received June 27, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3865—June 27, 1996; letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Pesticide Worker Protection Standard; Language and Size Requirement for Warning Sign (FRL–5358–8). Received June 27, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3866—June 27, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Loan Program (RIN: 0560–AE41). Received June 27, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

3867—June 27, 1996; letter from the Acting General Sales Manager and Acting Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation, Foreign Agricultural Service, transmitting the Service's final rule-Commodity Credit Corporation Supplier Credit Guarantee Program (RIN: 0551–AA30). Received June 26, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3924—June 27, 1996; letter from the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's March 1996 "Treasury Bulletin", pursuant to 26 U.S.C. 9602, 26 U.S.C. 9602(a), 26 U.S.C. 9505, 42 U.S.C. 10222(e)(1), 16 U.S.C. 1606a(c)(1), 31 U.S.C. 331(b), 42 U.S.C. 2297(g), and section 9633(b)(1) of CERCLA.

3925—July 8, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Sheep Promotion, Research, and Information Program (Docket No. LS-96–004 FR). Received June 28, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3926—July 8, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Viruses, Serums, Toxins, and Analogous Products; Marek's Disease Vaccines [APHIS Docket No. 94–046–2]. Received July 2, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3983—July 9, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Onions Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon, and Imported Onions; Modifications of Size Requirements [Docket No. FV-96-958-1-FR]. Received July 8, 1996,

pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3984—July 9, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Grading and Inspection, General Specifications for Approved Plants and Standards for Grades of Dairy Products; United States Standards for Instant Nonfat Dry Milk (7 CFR Part 58) [DA-93-04]. Received

July 8, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3985—July 9, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Assessment Rate for Domestically Produced Peanuts Handled By Persons Not Subject to Peanut Marketing Agreement No. 146 and for Marketing Agreement No. 146 Regulating the Quality of Domestically Produced Peanuts [Docket No. FV-96-998-2-IFR]. Received July 8, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3986—July 9, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Correction Docket-Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Order—Increase in Importer Assessments [Docket No. LS-96-001]. Received July 8, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3987—July 9, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Milk in the Southwest Plains Marketing Area; Suspension of Certain Provisions of the Order (7 CFR Part 1106) [DA-96-05]. Received July

8, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3988—July 9, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Irish Potatoes Grown in Washington; Assessment Rate [Docket No. FV-96-946-2-FIR]. Received July 8, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3989—July 9, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Karnal Bunt; Compensation [APHIS Docket No. 96–016–7]. Received July 9, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3990—July 9, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Karnal Bunt; Removal of Quarantined Areas [APHIS Docket No. 96–016–6]. Received July 9, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3991—July 9, 1996; letter from the Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Fees for Rice Inspection (RIN: 0580-AA47). Received July 8, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

3992—July 9, 1996; letter from the Acting Under Secretary for Food Safety, Food and Safety Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's "Major" final rule—Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems [Docket No. 93-016-F]. (RIN: 0583–AB69). Received July 9, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

4034—July 10, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Regulations and Policy Statements issued under the Packers and Stockyards Act (Group III) (RIN: 0580–AA45). Received July 8, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4035—July 10, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Regulations and Policy Statements issued under the Packers and Stockyards Act (Group III) (RIN: 0580–AA44). Received July 8, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4071—July 11, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Final Rule: Implementation of the Farm Program Provisions of the 1996 farm bill (RIN: 0561–AE81). Received July 11, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4072—July 11, 1996; letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting recommendations concerning the steps necessary to achieve interstate shipment of meat inspected under a State meat inspection program developed and administered under Section 301 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 661); and poultry inspected under a State poultry product inspection program developed and administered under section 5 of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 454), pursuant to Public Law 104–127, Section 918(b) (110 Stat. 1190).

4073—July 11, 1996; letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting the Service's final rule—Deletion of Part 16—Limitation on Imports of Meat, from Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulation (Foreign Agricultural Service) (RIN: 0551–AA45). Received July 11, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4137—July 16, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Raisins Produced From Grapes Grown in California; Final Free and Reserve Percentages for the 1995–96 Crop Year for Natural (sundried) Seedless, Zante Currant, and Other Seedless Raisins (Docket No. FV96–989–1 IFR). Received July 15, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4138—July 16, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado; Assessment Rate (Docket No. FV96–948–2 IFR). Received July 15, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4139—July 16, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Goats Imported From Mexico for Immediate Slaughter; Horse Quarantine Facilities (Docket No. 91–101–2). Received July 15, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4140—July 16, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Karnal Bunt; Removal of Quarantined Areas; Technical Amendment (APHIS Docket No. 96–016–8). Received July 16, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4187—July 17, 1996; letter from the Chief, Forest Service, transmitting the annual report of Forest Service accomplishments for

fiscal year 1995, pursuant to the Forest and Rangeland Renewable

Resources Planning Act (RPA) of 1974, as amended.

4217—July 22, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Nectarines and Fresh Peaches Grown in California; Assessment Rate (Docket No. FV96-916-1 IFR). Received July 22, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4218—July 22, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—United States Standards for Grades of Frozen Green and Frozen Wax Beans (FV-95-326). Received July 22, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4219—July 22, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Assessment Rate (Docket No. FV96–906–1 IFR). Received July 22, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4220-July 22, 1996; letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the annual report of the Administration for calendar year 1995, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 2252(a)(3).

4293—July 24, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Tobacco Inspection; Growers' Referendum Results (Docket No. TB-95-18). Received July 23, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4316—July 25, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos Grown in Florida; Assessment Rate (FV96–905–1 IFR). Received July 24, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4317—July 25, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule-Mexican Fruit Fly Regulations; Removal of Regulated Area (APHIS Docket No. 96-053-1). Received July 24, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4383—July 26, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Sweet Onions Grown in the Walla Walla Valley of Southeast Washington and Northeast Oregon; Assessment Rate (Docket No. FV96–956–2 IFR). Received July 26, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4384—July 26, 1996; letter from the Acting Under Secretary for Food Safety, Food and Safety Inspection Service Agency, transmitting the Service's final rule—Use of Trisodium Phosphate on Raw, Chilled Poultry Carcasses (Docket No. 92–026F). (RIN: 0583–AB65). Received July 25, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A). 4429—July 30, 1996; letter from the Secretary of Agriculture,

transmitting the annual animal welfare enforcement report for fis-

cal year 1995, pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2155.

4430—July 30, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Irish Potatoes Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon; Assessment Rate (Docket No. FV96–945– 1 IFR). Received July 29, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A). 4456—July 31, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Dried Prunes Produced in California; Assessment Rate (Docket No. FV96–993–1 IFR). Received July 31, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4457—July 31, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Onions Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur, Oregon; Relaxation of Pack and Marketing Requirements (FV96–958–3 IFR). Received July 31, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4458—July 31, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Almonds Grown in California; Assessment Rate (Docket No. FV96–981–2 IFR). Received July 31, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A). 4459—July 31, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coor-

4459—July 31, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Horses from Mexico; Quarantine Requirements (Docket No. 96–052–1). Received July 31, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4510—Aug. 2, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Avocados Grown in South Florida; Assessment Rate (Docket No. FV96–915–1 IFR). Received August 2, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4511—Aug. 2, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Florida Grapefruit, Florida Oranges and Tangelos, and Florida Tangerines; Grade Standards (Docket No. FV–96–301). Received August 2, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4512—Aug. 2, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agriculture Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Papayas Grown in Hawaii; Assessment Rate (Docket No. FV96–928–1 IFR).

Received August 2, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4531—September 4, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Fresh Prunes Grown in Washington and Oregon; Handling Requirement Revision; Fruits; Import Regulations; Fresh Prune Import Requirements (Docket No. FV95–924–IFR). Received August 7, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4532—September 4, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Apricots and Cherries Grown in Designated Counties in Washington and Prunes Grown in Designated Counties in Washington and in Umatilla County, Oregon; Assessment Rates (Docket No. FV96–922 IFR). Received August 7, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4533—September 4, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Assessment Rate (Docket No. FV96–985–2 IFR). Received August 7, 1996, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4534—September 4, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Kiwifruit Grown in California; Assessment Rate (Docket No. FV96—

920–1 IFR). Received August 5, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4535—September 4, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Olives Grown in California and Imported Olives; Establishment of Limited—Use Style Olive Grade and Size Requirements (Docket No. FV96–932–3 IFR). Received August 5, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4536—September 4, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Milk in the Carolina, Southeast, Tennessee Valley and Louisville—Lexington—Evansville Marketing Areas; Interim Amendment of Rules (Docket No. AO0388—A9, et al.; DA-96-08). Received August 9,

1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4537—September 4, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Cranberries Grown in the States of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington, and Long Island in the State of New York; Assessment Rate (Docket No. FV96–929–3 IFR). Received August 14, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4538—September 4, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Interim Final Rule to Revise Pack and Size Requirements (Docket No. FV96–906–3 IFR). Received August 21, 1996, pursuant

to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4539—September 4, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Limes Grown in Florida and Imported Limes; Change in Regulatory Period (Docket No. FV96–911–2FR). Received August 21, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4540—September 4, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Southeastern Potatoes; Assessment Rate (Docket No. FV96–953–1 FIR). Received August 21, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4541—September 4, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Oregon—California Potatoes; Assessment Rate (Docket No. FV96–947–1 FIR). Received August 21, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4542—September 4, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Almonds Grown in California; Change in Quality Control (Docket No. FV96–981–3 IFR). Received August 20, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4543—September 4, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Hazelnuts Grown in Oregon and Washington; Assessment Rate (Docket No. FV96–982–1 IFR). Received August 20, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4544—September 4, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Increased Assessment Rate for Domestically Produced Peanuts Han-

dled By Persons Not Subject to Peanut Marketing Agreement No. 146 and for Marketing Agreement No. 146 Regulating the Quality of Domestically Produced Peanuts (Docket No. FV96-998-1 FIR). Received August 20, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4545—September 4, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule-Apricots Grown in Designated Counties in Washington; Temporary Suspension of Grade Requirements (Docket No. FV96–922–1 FIR).

Received August 20, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A). 4546—September 4, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Change in Disease Status of The Netherlands Because of Hog Cholera and Swine Vesicular Disease (Docket No. 96–014–2). Received August 6, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4547—September 4, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Change in Disease Status of Spain Because of African Swine Fever (Docket No. 96–025–2). Received August 22,

1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4548—September 4, 1996; letter from the Acting Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Interpretation Regarding Use of Electronic Media by Commodity Pool Operators and Commodity Trading Advisors (17 CFR Part 4). Received August 21, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4549—September 4, 1996; letter from the Acting Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Publicizing of Broker Association Memberships (17 CFR Part 1). Received August 21, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4550—September 4, 1996; letter from the Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Fees for Official Inspection and Official Weighing Services (RIN: 0580-AA40). Received August 21, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4551—September 4, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Accounting Requirements for RUS Telecommunications Borrowers (RIN: 0572– AB10). Received August 6, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4892—September 9, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado; Assessment Rate (Docket No. FV96-948-1 FIR). Received August 27, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4893—September 9, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule-United States Standards for Grades of Frozen Cauliflower (FV-91-329). Received August 27, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4894—September 9, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule-Sweet Onions Grown in the Walla Walla Valley of Southeast Washington and Northeast Oregon; Establishment of Handler Reporting Requirements and Interest Charges on Overdue Assessment Payments [FV96–956–1 FR]. Received August 28, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4895—September 9, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Idaho—Eastern Oregon Onions; Assessment Rate (Docket No. FV96–958–2 FIR). Received August 23, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4896—September 9, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Importation of Horses (Docket No. 95–079–2). Received August 23, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A)

4897—September 9, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Determination of Eligibility for Free Meals by Summer Food Service Program Sponsors and Free and Reduced Price Meals by Child and Adult Care Food Program Institutions (RIN: 0584—AB17). Received August 8, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

ceived August 8, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).
4898—September 9, 1996; letter from the Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Wetlands Reserve Program (RIN: 0578—AA16). Received Au-

gust 9, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

4899—September 9, 1996; letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting the authorization of implementation of the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact, pursuant to Public Law 104–127, Section 147.

4977—September 9, 1996; letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Limes and Avocados Grown in Florida; Suspension of Certain Volume Regulations and Reporting Requirements (Docket No. FV–95–911–2 FIR). Received September 5, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

5023—September 10, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Milk in the Black Hills, SD, Marketing Area; Termination of the Order (DA-96-12). Received September 9, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

5024—September 10, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Assessment Rates for Specified Market Orders (Docket No. FV96–927–2 IFR). Received September 9, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

5025—September 10, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Scrapie Indemnification Program (Docket No. 96–042–1). Received September 9, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

5087—September 12, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Corn Cyst Nematode (APHIS Docket No. 96–001–2). Received September 11, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

5088—September 12, 1996; letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, trans-

mitting the Service's final rule—Importation of Fruits and Vegetables (APHIS Docket No. 95-068-2). Received September 11, 1996,

pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

5112—September 16, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule-United States Standards for Grades of Frozen Field Peas and Frozen Black-Eye Peas (FV-95-329). Received September 12, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

5113—September 16, 1996; letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule— United States Standards for Grades of Frozen Okra (FV-95-328). Received September 12, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

5114—September 16, 1996; letter from the Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Farm Service Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Arizona—California Citrus Crop Insurance Provisions (7 CFR Part 457). Received September 12, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

5115—September 16, 1996; letter from the Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Farm Service Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Texas Citrus Crop Insurance Provisions (RIN: 0563—AB56). Received September 12, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

5116—September 16, 1996; letter from the Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Farm Service Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—General Administrative Regulations; Federal Crop Insurance Reform Act of 1994, Regulations for Implementation (RIN: 0563—AB11). Received September 12, 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

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153 April 29, 1996; Communication from the President of the United States, transmitting the administration's 1996 National

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160 May 22, 1996; Communication from the President of the United States, transmitting the report of the Commodity Credit Corporation for fiscal year 1994, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 714k.

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lamation No. 6790, April 21, 1995.

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Commodity Futures Trading Commission: Sixth Renewal Charter of the Commission's Agricultural Advisory Committee, required by section 9(c) and 14(b)(1) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Submitted by CFTC, May 2, 1995.

Office of Inspector General: Semiannual report to Congress for the period October 1, 1994 through March 31, 1995, required by the Inspector General Act of 1978, P.L. 95–452. Submitted by USDA, May 1, 1995.

Financial Market Regulation: Benefits and Risks of Merging SEC and CFTC (GAO/T-GGD-95-153), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, May 3, 1995.

USDA: Farmland Protection Policy Act annual report, required by title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985, P.L. 99–198. Submitted by USDA, May 4, 1995.

Charter: Committee on Nine, required by P.L. 91–463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Submitted by USDA, May 5, 1995.

Charter: Forestry Research Advisory Council, required by P.L. 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Submitted by USDA, May 8, 1995.

Congressional Research Service: Risk and Cost–Benefit Provisions in House and Senate Bills-Update, pursuant to request. Submitted by CRS, May 8, 1995.

USDA: 1995 Farm Bill, Guidance of the Administration, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, May 10, 1995.

Crop Insurance: Multiperil Crop Insurance Performance Update, pursuant to request. Submitted by Rain and Hail Insurance Service, Inc., May 10, 1995.

General Accounting Office: Foreign-Owned Exporters' Participation in the Export Enhancement Program (GAO/GGD-95-127), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, May 11, 1995.

Forest Service: Summary of proposed purchase for Green Mountain National Forest, Vermont, required by section 17(b) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, P.L. 94–588. Submitted by USDA, May 11, 1995.

Superfund: National Resource Damage Claims (GAO/T-RCED-95-182). pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, May 11, 1995.

Forest Service: Summary of proposed purchase for Daniel Boone National Forest, Kentucky, required by section 17(b) of the Na-

tional Forest Management Act of 1976, P.L. 94-588. Submitted by

USDA, May 12, 1995.

U.S. Department of Commerce: Letter from Rolland A. Schmitten, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, to Honorable Robert L. Livingston endorsing the recommendations appearing in the Anadromous Fish Habitat Assessment for the Tongass National Forest, authored by the Forest Service and required by FY 1994 Appropriations Act for Interior and Related Agencies. Submitted by DOC May 12, 1995.

Forest Service: Summary of proposed purchases for Ouachita Na-

Forest Service: Summary of proposed purchases for Ouachita National Forest, Arkansas, and Tate's Hell, Florida, required by section 17(b) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, P.L. 94—

588. Submitted by USDA, May 12, 1995.

Environmental Protection: EPA's Problems with Collection and Management of Scientific Data and Its Efforts To Address Them (GAO/T–RCED–95–174), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, May 12, 1995.

May 12, 1995.
1993 Thrift Resolutions: RTC's Resolution Process Generally Adequate to Determine Least Costly Resolutions (GAO/GGD-95-119), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, May 15, 1995.

Charter: Renewal of Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Scientific Advisory Panel, required by Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C., App. 1, section 9(c)). Submitted by EPA, May 15, 1995.

Environmental Protection: Current Environmental Challenges Require New Approaches (GAO/T-RCED-95-190), pursuant to re-

quest. Submitted by GAO, May 17, 1995.

Forest Service: Summary of proposed purchase for Routt, San Juan and White River National Forests, required by section 17(b) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, P.L. 94–588, as amended. Submitted by USDA, May 18, 1995.

Farm Loans: Actions Needed to Safeguard Taxpayers' Interests (GAO/T–RCED–95–194), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO,

May 18, 1995.

Forest Service: Summary of proposed exchange for Chequamegon National Forest, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, May 18, 1995.

USDA: Update of March, 1991, Equity Analysis of 1990 farm legislation, pursuant to request. Submitted by USDA, May 18, 1995.

Forest Service: Land Areas of the National Forest System, September 1994, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, May 22, 1995.

Food Assistance: Alternatives for Delivering Benefits (GAO/T-RCED-95-202), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, May 23,

1995.

Superfund: Information on Operations and Maintenance Activities and Costs (GAO/T–RCED–95–201), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, May 24, 1995.

Superfund: Risk Assessment Assumptions and Issues (GAO/T-RCED-95-206), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, May 24,

Government Sponsored Enterprises: Development of the Federal Housing Enterprise Financial Regulator (GAO/GGD-95-123), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, May 30, 1995.

General Accounting Office: Terms of Work for GAO Study of adulterated fruit juice sold to the federal school meals program, required by P.L. 103,448, Healthy Meals for Healthy Americans Act of 1994. Submitted by GAO, May 31, 1995.

Economic Research Service: Federal Marketing Orders and Federal Research and Promotion Programs, Background for 1995 farm legislation, pursuant to request. Submitted by USDA, May 1995.

Economic Research Service: Oilseeds, Background for 1995 farm legislation, pursuant to request. Submitted by USDA, May 1995.
General Accounting Office: Reports and Testimony: April 1995

General Accounting Office: Reports and Testimony: April 1995 (GAO/OPA-95-7), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, May 1995.

Economic Research Service: Journal of Agricultural Economics Research, Winter, 1995, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, May 1995.

Economic Research Service: Foreign Agricultural Trade of the United States (FATUS), fiscal year 1994 Supplement, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, May 1995. Consolidated Farm Service Agency: Annual report on secondary

Consolidated Farm Service Agency: Annual report on secondary market, required by section 711 of the Agricultural Credit Act of

1987. Submitted by USDA, June 1, 1995.

USDA: Summary of Rural Business and Cooperative Development Service (RBCDS) cooperative development projects involving various segments of the sheep and goat industry, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, June 7, 1995.

USDA: Annual budget report for the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Program, required by section 106, of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990, P.L. 101–445. Submitted by USDA, June 8, 1995.

Agricultural Research Service: Quarterly report on research progress, required by the Agricultural Rural Development, and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill, 1985, H.Rpt. 98–809. Submitted by USDA, June 9, 1995.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of the Congo, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, June 9, 1995.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of Cote D'Ivoire, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA June 9, 1995

by USDA, June 9, 1995.

Charters: Establishment of Advisory Committee for Fresh Products Shipping Point Inspection Program and Marine Mammal Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee, required by P.L. 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Submitted by USDA, June 12, 1995.

Health Insurance Regulation: Variation in Recent State Small Employer Health Insurance Reforms (GAO/HEHS-95-161FS), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, June 12, 1995.

Food Stamp Program: Monthly expenditures for March 1995 and cumulative spending totals for the fiscal year 1995 through March, required by section 18 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, P.L. 103–88, and P.L. 103–330, the Agriculture, Rural Develop-

ment, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appro-

priations Act, 1995. Submitted by USDA, June 14, 1995.

Forest Service: Proposed purchase for Green Mountain National Forest, Vermont, required by section 17(b) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976. P. L. 94–588, as amended. Submitted by USDA, June 15, 1995.

General Accounting Office: Report on Farmland Productivity (GAO/ RCED-95-22OR), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, June 15, 1995.

Environmental Protection Agency: Report on accounting of pesticide fees, pursuant to request. Submitted by EPA, June 16, 1995.

Environmental Protection Agency: EPA accounting of pesticide fees, pursuant to request. Submitted by EPA, June 16, 1995.

USDA: Draft Legislation to amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, June 20, 1995.

USDA: Animal Welfare Enforcement Report for fiscal year 1994, required by Animal Welfare Act, 7 U.S.C. 2131–2156. Submitted by

USDA, June 20, 1995.

Agricultural Marketing Service: Notice of request under the Freedom of Information Act for current list of growers covered by the marketing order for table grapes grown in California, required by section 1163 of the Food Security Act of 1985, amending the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937. Submitted by USDA, June 20, 1995.

National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy and Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs: 1995 Farm Bill Working Group Paper Series: Overview; Land Use, Conservation, and Environment; Price and Income Stability; International Trade and Marketing; Food and Consumer Issues; Rural Development; and Research and Education, pursuant to request. Submitted by NCFAP, June 21, 1995.

General Accounting Office: EPA's Use of Risk Assessments in Cleanup Decisions (GAO/T-RCED-95-231), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, June 22, 1995.

USDA: Report on requiring producers to repay 1994—Crop Farmer—Owned Reserve (FOR) feed grain loans, required by section 110 of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended. Submitted by USDA, June 23, 1995.

Food Assistance: Reducing Food Stamp Benefit Overpayments and Trafficking (GAO/RCED-95-198), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, June 23, 1995.

USDA: Report on fiscal year 1994 construction activities by the Agricultural Research Service, required by section 1431(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985, P.L. 99–198, as amended by section 1601(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, P.L. 101–624. Submitted by USDA, June 23, 1995.

General Accounting Office: Review of the Activities of State Trading Enterprises, report setting forth key aspects of future work,

pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, June 23, 1995.

Food Aid: Competing Goals and Requirements Hinder Title I Program Results (GAO/GGD-95-68), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, June 26, 1995.

Food Stamp Program: Monthly expenditures for April 1995 and cumulative spending totals for fiscal year 1995 through April, required by section 18 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, and P.L. 103–330, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1995. Submitted by USDA, June 26, 1995.

General Accounting Office: Commerce's Trade Functions (GAO/GGD-95-195R), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, June 26,

1995.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of El Salvador, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, June 27, 1995.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of Lithuania, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, June 27, 1995.

Animal Agriculture: Information on Waste Management and Water Quality Issues (GAO/RCED-95-200BR), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, June 28, 1995.

Agriculture and the Environment: Information on and Characteristics of Selected Watershed Projects (GAO/RCED-95-218), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, June 29, 1995.

Economic Research Service: Foreign Agricultural Trade of the United States (FATUS), March/April 1995, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, June 1995.

Economic Research Service: Foreign Agricultural Trade of the United States (FATUS), Calendar Year 1994 Supplement, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, June 1995.

Economic Research Service: Agricultural Handbook No. 705, Agricultural Resources and Environmental Indicators, December, 1995, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, June 1995.

Economic Research Service: Foreign Ownership of U.S. Agricultural Land Through December 31, 1994, required by section 5 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978. Submitted by USDA, June 1995.

Cooperative State Research Service: Report on New Industrial Uses, New Markets for U.S. Crops: Status of Technology and Commercial Adoption; August 1993, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, June 1995.

General Accounting Office: Reports and Testimony, May 1995 (GAO/OPA-95-8), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, June

General Accounting Office: Health, Education, and Human Services Division Reports (April–May 1995) (GAO/HEHS–95–176W), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, June 1995.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of Croatia, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, July 5, 1995.

USDA: Summary of proposed exchange for Clearwater National Forest and Kaniksu National Forest, Idaho, required by section

17(b) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, P.L. 94–558.

Submitted by USDA, July 5, 1995.

Agricultural Marketing Service: Role of Navigation Among the Competing Uses of the Missouri River, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, July 5, 1995.

Food and Consumer Service: Report on Evaluation of Expedited Service in the Food Stamp Program, Vols. I and II, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, July 7,

Toxic Substances: EPA Should Focus Its Chemical Use Inventory on Suspected Harmful Substances, pursuant to request. Submitted

by GAO, July 7, 1995.

USDA: Draft legislation to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to expand and streamline a Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program by providing for loans and grants and to authorize appropriations for business telecommunication partnerships, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, July 7, 1995

USDA: A Tropical Forestry Plan, required by P.L. 102–574, and response to the Hawaii Tropical Forest Recovery Task Force Report completed in July, 1994. Submitted by USDA, July 10, 1995.

Pesticides: EPA's Efforts to Collect and Take Action on Exposure Incident Data (GAO/RCED-95-163), pursuant to request. Submit-

ted by GAO, July 12, 1995.

U.S. Congress: Letter from Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee, and Chairman, House Budget Committee, to Chairman, House Agriculture Committee, confirming agreements in future agriculture appropriation and authorization legislation. Submitted, July 13, 1995.

General Accounting Office: Letter citing plans to review cotton research and promotion program, as required by Title XIX, Subtitle G of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990,

P.L. 101–624. Submitted by GAO, July 13, 1995.

Consolidated Farm Service Agency: Update on the Farm Loan Portfolio (GAO/RCED-95-223FS), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, July 14, 1995.

Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion: The Healthy Eating

Index, pursuant to request. Submitted by USDA, July 17, 1995.

Food and Consumer Service: Proposed rule entitled "Collecting Food Stamp Recipient Claims From Federal Income Tax Refunds and Federal Salaries, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, July 17, 1995.

Agricultural Marketing Service: Notice of request under Freedom of Information Act for current lists of fruit growers covered by certain Federal marketing orders in California, required by section 1663 of the Food Security Act of 1985, amending the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937. Submitted by USDA, July 18,

Food and Consumer Service: Proposed rule entitled Food Stamp Program: Quality Control Provisions of the Mickey Leland Childhood Hunger Relief Act, required by the Mickey Leland Childhood Hunger Relief Act, Chapter 3, Title XIII of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-66). Submitted by USDA, July 19, 1995.

Forest Service: Summary of proposed exchange for Holly Springs National Forest, Mississippi, required by section 17(b) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, P.L. 94-558. Submitted by

USDA, July 19, 1995.

USDA: Draft legislation to consolidate and revise the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture relating to protection of animal health and draft legislation to consolidate and revise the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture relating to plant protection and quarantine, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, July 21, 1995.

Food and Consumer Service: Final Report on State Estimates of Infants and Children Income Eligible for the WIC Program in 1992, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by

USDA, July 21, 1995.

Forest Service: Formal opinion on the applicability of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) to the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, July 25, 1995.

Congressional Research Service: Comparing Levels of Farm Support Across Selected Commodities (95–840 ENR), pursuant to re-

quest. Submitted by CRS, July 27, 1995.

General Accounting Office: Health, Education, and Human Services Division Reports, July 1995 (GAO/HEHS-95-204W), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, July 1995.

Economic Research Service: Foreign Agricultural Trade of the United States (FATUS), May/June 1995, pursuant to agreed upon

oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, July 1995.

Economic Research Service: Costs of Production, 1993–Major Field Crops and Livestock and Dairy, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, July 1995.

U.S. Office of Special Counsel: Report submitted by Secretary of Agriculture setting forth findings and conclusions of Secretary's review of disclosures of information allegedly evidencing gross waste of funds and an abuse of authority by officials of the former Rural Electrification Administration (REA), now part of the Rural Utilities Services (RUS) of USDA, required by 5 U.S.C. 1213(e)(3). Submitted by counsel, August 1, 1995.

U.S. Office of Special Counsel: Report submitted by Secretary of Agriculture setting forth findings and conclusions of Secretary's review of disclosures of information allegedly evidencing violations of law and regulation, gross mismanagement, abuse of authority and endangering public health by officials of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), Import Division, Sweetgrass Montana, required by 5 U.S.C. 1213(e)(3). Submitted by Counsel, August 1,

1995.

USDA: Draft legislation to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to provide for the establishment of a statutory trust for the benefit of livestock sellers to livestock dealers and market agencies buying on commission, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, August 4, 1995.

USDA: Draft legislation to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to provide authority to collect license fees to cover the cost of the program, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures.

Submitted by USDA, August 4, 1995.

USDA: Draft legislation to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to collect fees for certain services provided in support of biotechnology testing and veterinary biologics activities, and the provision of technical assistance, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, August 4, 1995.

Charter: Reestablishment of the National Organic Standards Board, required by P.L. 92-463, the Federal Advisory Committee

Act. Submitted by USDA, August 4, 1995.
General Accounting Office: EPA Data Gathering Efforts Would Have Imposed a Burden on States (GAO/AIMD-95-160), pursuant

to request. Submitted by GAO, August 7, 1995.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of Angola, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, August 9, 1995.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of Jamaica, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by

USDA, August 9, 1995.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of El Salvador, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, August 9, 1995.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of Belarus, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, August 21, 1995.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of Guyana, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA,

August 21, 1995.

USDA: Horse Protection Enforcement fiscal year 1994 Report, required by Horse Protection Act, P.L. 91-540, as amended by P.L. 94–360. Submitted by USDA, August 21, 1995.

General Accounting Office: Benefits of EPA's Hazardous Waste Information System Are Limited (GAO/AIMD-95-167), pursuant to

request. Submitted by GAO, August 22, 1995.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of Sri Lanka, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, August 23, 1995.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of the Congo, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by

USDA, August 23, 1995.

Charter: Reestablishment of the Wildcat River Advisory Commission, required by P.L. 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Submitted by USDA, August 28, 1995.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of Suriname, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, August 29, 1995.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of Bolivia, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA,

August 29, 1995.

General Accounting Office: Compliance with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GAO/GGD-95-208), pursuant to re-

quest. Submitted by GAO, August 30, 1995.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of Angola, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, August 31, 1995.

General Accounting Office: Reports and Testimony: July 1995 (GAO/OPA-95-10), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, Au-

gust 1995.

USDA: Report to Congress on the National Dairy Promotion and Research Program and the National Fluid Milk, Processor Promotion Program, July 1, 1995, required by 7 U.S.C. 4514 and 7 U.S.C. 6407. Submitted by USDA, August 1995.

Economic Research Service: Oil Crops Yearbook, July 1995, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA,

August 1995.

Economic Research Service: Vegetables and Specialties Situation and Outlook Yearbook, July 1995, pursuant to agreed upon over-

sight procedures. Submitted by USDA, August 1995.

USDA: Report regarding volume of salvage sales sold and harvested, available salvage volume, a plan for an enhanced salvage timber sale program, and description of any needed resources and personnel to aid in implementation, required by section 2001(c)(2), FY 1995 Rescissions Act (P.L. 104–19). Submitted by USDA, September 1, 1995.

General Accounting Office: Letter providing terms of work for update of report on Federal food safety activities, pursuant to request.

Submitted by GAO, September 1, 1995.

USDA: Report on estimated purchases of surplus dairy products for the coming calendar year, required by section 204(f) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended. Submitted by USDA, September 1, 1995.

Food and Consumer Service: Final Rule to implement provision 13942 of the Mickey Leland Hunger Relief Act relating to recipient disqualification penalties for intentionally violating Food Stamp Program rules, required by P.L. 103–55, Mickey Leland Hunger Relief Act. Submitted by USDA, September 1, 1995.

General Accounting Office: USDA Telecommunications (GAO/AIMD-95-219R), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, Septem-

ber 5, 1995.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of Sri Lanka, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, September 7, 1995.

USDA: Notice of intent to terminate the marketing order for tomatoes grown in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas, required by section 608c (16)(A) of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937. Submitted by USDA, September 8, 1995.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of

Turkmenistan, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Sub-

mitted by USDA, September 14, 1995.

Food and Consumer Service: Effects of the Immigration Reform and Control Act: Impact of the Legalization Program on the Food Stamp Program, required by section 404 of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. Submitted by USDA, September 14, 1995.

Food Stamp Program: Monthly expenditures for June 1995 and cumulative spending totals for fiscal year 1995 through June, required by section 18 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, and P.L. 103–330, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1995. Submitted by USDA, September 18, 1995.

USDA: Proposed reorganization plans of the Forest Service and request to remove prohibitions in the Interior Appropriations Bill,

H.R. 1977. Submitted by USDA, September 19, 1995.

Environmental Protection Agency: Proposed rules amending the Worker Protection Standard's (40 CFR Part 170) decontamination provisions and amending the bilingual and small sign requirements for pesticide workers under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by EPA, September 19, 1995.

Forest Service: Proposed purchase for Nantahala National Forest, North Carolina, required by section 17(b) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, P.L. 94–588, as amended. Submitted

by USDA, September 25, 1995.

Food and Consumer Service: Final rule which incorporates two debt collection procedures into the Food Stamp Program, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, September 26, 1995.

General Accounting Office: GAO Products Related to Pesticide Regulation (GAO/RCED-95-272-R), pursuant to request. Submit-

ted by GAO, September 26, 1995.

USDA: 1993 Report on USDA Human Nutrition Research and Education Activities, required by section 1452(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act Amendments to 1985. Submitted by USDA, September 27, 1995.

General Accounting Office: Foreign Agricultural Service Could Benefit From Better Strategic Planning (GAO/GGD-95-225), pur-

suant to request. Submitted by GAO, September 28, 1995.

General Accounting Office: Crop Insurance: Additional Actions Could Further Improve Program's Financial Condition (GAO/RCED-95-269), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, September 28, 1995.

Joint Council on Food and Agricultural Sciences: Report on Priorities for Agricultural Research, Education, and Economics, required by 1977, 1981, 1985, and 1990 farm bills to improve the planning and coordination of research, education, and economics programs. Submitted by USDA, September 28, 1995.

General Accounting Office: Agriculture's Chief Financial Officers Act (CRO) Act Implementation (GAO/AIMD-95-238r), pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by GAO, September

29, 1995.

General Accounting Office: USDA Financial Systems: Additional Actions Needed to Resolve Major Problems (GAO/AIMD-95-222), pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by GAO, September 29, 1995.

General Accounting Office: Cheese Imports (GAO/RCED-95-280R), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, September 29,

1995.

Consolidated Farm Service Agency: Congressional District Ranking by selected programs and commodities 104th Congress and Supplement, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, September 1995.

Agricultural & Food Policy Center: Farm Level Impacts of the Freedom to Farm Act and Increased Normal Flex Acreage to Achieve Budget Reductions, pursuant to request. Submitted by AFPC, September 1995.

Economic Research Service: Agricultural Income and Finance Situation and Outlook Report, pursuant to agreed upon oversight pro-

cedures. Submitted by USDA, September 1995.
Economic Research Service: Tobacco Situation and Outlook Report, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by

USDA, September 1995.

Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute: 1995 Farm Bill Option: The Freedom to Farm Act and 30 Percent Normal Flex Acres (FAPRI Report 13–95), pursuant to request. Submitted by FAPRI, September 1995.

General Accounting Office: Letter indicating terms of work for review of the cotton promotion and research program for imports, required by Title XIX, subtitle G, of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990. Submitted by GAO, October 2, 1995.

National Research Council: Board of Agriculture's report Colleges of Agriculture at the Land Grant Universities: A Profile, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by NRC, October

Forest Service: Summary of proposed exchanges for Tahoe National Forest, El Dorado National Forest and Angeles National Forest, California, and Homochitto National Forest, Mississippi, required by section 17(b) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, P.L. 94–588, as amended. Submitted by USDA, October 3, 1995.

General Accounting Office: Letter indicating terms of work for review of the Minnesota Family Investment Program required by, the Food Stamp Act, as amended. Submitted by GAO, October 5, 1995.

Food Stamp Program: Monthly expenditures for July 1995, and cumulative spending totals for the fiscal year 1995 through July, required by section 18 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, and P.L. 103–330, the Agriculture, Rural Development Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1995. Submitted by USDA, October 5, 1995.

General Accounting Office: Letter indicating terms of work for review of the U.S. food and agriculture research, education, and extension system, pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, October

Charters: Amendments to the Joint Council on Food and Agricultural Sciences; National Agricultural Research and Extension Users Advisory Board; and Agricultural Science and Technology Review Board, required by P.L. 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Submitted by USDA, October 10, 1995.

Charter: National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council, required by P.L. 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee

Act. Submitted by USDA, October 10, 1995.

USDA: Report addressing the results of spot check inspections of Canadian potatoes entering northeastern ports of entry into the United States, required by section 1704, Food Security Act of 1985. Submitted by USDA, October 13, 1995.

Commodity Futures Trading Commission: Three orders concerning new heightened audit trail requirements, required by section 5a(b)(3) of the Commodity Exchange Act. Submitted by CFTC, October 23, 1995.

USDA: Chart for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, October 24, 1995.

General Accounting Office: FIFRA Reporting Requirements (GAO/AIMD/RCED-96-21R), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, October 26, 1995.

Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute: Analysis of United States House and Senate Agricultural Reconciliation Provisions, pursuant to request. Submitted by FAPRI, October 26, 1995.

Agricultural and Food Policy Center: Preliminary Farm Level Impacts of the Senate and House Agricultural Reconciliation Provisions, pursuant to request. Submitted by AFPC, October 26, 1995.

USDA: Two initiatives which require authorization in the 1995 farm bill: buyback/swap program for debt incurred under the P.L. 480 Title I credit sales program for lower income countries in Latin America and the Caribbean; and the restructuring of debt under the GSM export credit guarantee program for Honduras, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, October 26, 1995.

Animal Damage Control Program: Efforts to Protect Livestock from Predators (GAO/RCED-96-3), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, October 30, 1995.

Charter: Renewal of the General Conference Committee of the National Poultry Improvement Plan, required by P.L. 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Submitted by USDA, October 31, 1995.

GAO: Financial Institutions and Markets Issues Area, Active Assignments (GAO/AA–95–7(4)), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, October 1995.

Agricultural Marketing Service: Notice of request under Freedom of Information Act for current list of growers covered by the Federal marketing order for almonds grown in California, required by section 1663 of the Food Security Act of 1985, amending the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937. Submitted by USDA, November 1, 1995.

Food Stamp Program: Monthly expenditure for August 1995, and cumulative totals for fiscal year 1995 through August, required by section 18 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, and P.L. 103–330, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Ad-

ministration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1995. Sub-

mitted by USDA, November 2, 1995.

Fruit Juice Adulteration: Detection Is Difficult, and Enhanced Efforts Would Be Costly (GAO/RCED-96-18), required by Healthy Meals for Healthy Americans Act of 1994. Submitted by GAO, No-

Forest Service: Summary of proposed exchanges for Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri, and Ouachita National Forest, Oklahoma, required by section 17(b) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, P.L. 94–588, as amended. Submitted by USDA, November 3, 1995.

USDA: Views of USDA on the House and Senate welfare reform proposals, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submit-

ted by USDA. November 7, 1995.

USDA: Report for first 6 months of calendar 1995 on production, trade, inspections, and prices of fresh fruits and vegetables, processed citrus, and cut flowers, required by section 321(e) of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act of 1993. Submitted by USDA, P.L. 103-66. Submitted by USDA, November 8, 1995. Forest Service: Draft 1995 FPA Program: The Forest Service Pro-

gram for Forest and Rangeland Resources—A Long-Term Strategic Plan, required by Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Act of 1974 (RPA). Submitted by USDA, November 11, 1995. USDA: Chart for the Office of Communications, pursuant to

agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, November

13, 1995.

Administrative Law Judges: Comparison of SEC and CFTC Programs (GAO/GGD-96-27), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, November 14, 1995.

USDA: Notice of intent to terminate the marketing order for Irish/potatoes grown in Maine, required by section 8c(16)(A) of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937. Submitted by USDA, November 14, 1995.

Charter: Establishment of the National Advisory Committee of Acute Exposure Guideline Levels for Hazardous Substances, required by P.L. 92-463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Submitted by EPA, November 14, 1995.

Charter: Establishment of the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee, required by P.L. 92-463, the Federal Advisory Committee

Act. Submitted by EPA, November 14, 1995.

USDA: Draft legislation to amend the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act of 1913 to increase the criminal penalties and authorize the assessment of civil penalties under the Act, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, November 14, 1995.

General Accounting Office: Report of 1995 fiscal year Interest Rates on Rural Telephone Bank Loans (GAO/AIMD-96-18), required by section 408(b)(3)(I) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987, P.L. 100–203. Submitted by GAO, November 16, 1995.

USDA: Summary, by State and national totals, of 1994 crop year highly erodible land conservation tenant exemption requests approved, required by section 1212(e) of the Food Security Act of

1985. Submitted by USDA, November 17, 1995.

Commodity Credit Corporation: Quarterly report on Commodity Credit Corporation—owned inventory, required by S.Rept. 99–1438, the Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 1987. Submitted by USDA, November 20, 1995.

Forest Service: Summary of proposed exchange for Daniel Boone National Forest, Kentucky, required by section 17(b) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, P.L. 94–588, as amended.

Submitted by USDA, November 27, 1995.

Environmental Protection Agency: Draft of proposed rule under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) establishing ground water State Management Plans (SMPs) for five major herbicides, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by EPA, November 27, 1995.

General Accounting Office: Reports and Testimony: October 1995 (GAO/OPA-96-1), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, Novem-

ber 1995.

General Accounting Office: Report on Terms of Work to examine certain aspects of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points

(HACCP) systems. Submitted by GAO, December 1, 1995.

Environmental Protection Agency: Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress and Management's Report to Congress on Audits for the period April 1, 1995, through September 30, 1995, as required by the Inspector General Act Amendments of 1988, P.L. 100–504. Submitted by EPA, December 5, 1995.

Charters: Renewal of Allegheny National Wild and Scenic River Northern and Southern Advisory Councils and renewal of Federal Grain Inspection Advisory Committee, required by P.L. 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Submitted by USDA, December

6, 1995.

Agricultural Marketing Service: Notice of request under Freedom of Information Act for list of "independent" growers covered by the Federal marketing order for prunes grown in California, required by section 1663 of the Food Security Act of 1985, amending the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937. Submitted by USDA, December 7, 1995.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of Guyana, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, December 7, 1995.

Food and Consumer Service: Characteristics of Food Stamp Households: Summer 1994 (Advance Report), pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, December 8, 1995.

General Accounting Office: Terms of Work for study of the use of private food establishments and caterers by schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program mandated by section 302, Healthy Meals for Healthy Americans Act of 1996 (P.L. 103–488). Submitted by GAO, December 11, 1995.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of Sri Lanka, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by TISDA December 11, 1005

USDA, December 11, 1995.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of Bolivia, pur-

suant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, December 15, 1995.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of El Salvador, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, December 15, 1995.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of Jamaica, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, December 15, 1995.

General Accounting Office: Report on Farm Bill Export Options (GAO/GGD-96-39R), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, December 15, 1995.

USDA: Fourth (1995) edition of Nutrition and Your Health: Dietary Guidelines for Americans, required by National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990. Submitted by USDA, December 22, 1995.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of Suriname, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, December 29, 1995.

General Accounting Office: Reports and Testimony: November 1995 (GAO/OPA-96-2), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, December, 1995.

Economic Research Service: Foreign Agricultural Trade of the United States (FATUS), September/October 1995, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, December, 1995.

Commodity Credit Corporation: Annual Report of the President of the Commodity Credit Corporation for fiscal year 1993, required by the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act, as amended, Submitted by USDA, December, 1995.

Food and Consumer Service: Trends in Food Stamp Program Participation Rates: Focus on August 1993, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, December, 1995.

Food Stamp Program: Monthly expenditure for September 1995, and cumulative totals for fiscal year 1995 through September, required by section 18 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, and P.L. 103–330, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1995. Submitted by USDA, January 2, 1996.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of Belarus, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, January 4, 1996.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of the Congo, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, January 16, 1996.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of the Jordon, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, January 16, 1996.

Agricultural Marketing Service: Notice of request under Freedom of Information Act for list of growers covered by the Federal marketing orders for limes, grapes, Texas melons, prunes, and proposed for tart cherries, required by section 1663 of the Food Security Act of 1985, amending the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937. Submitted by USDA, January 18, 1996.

General Accounting Office: Agricultural Marketing—U.S. Cotton Market Before and After Import Assessments (GAO/RCED-96-49), required by Cotton Research and Promotion Act Amendments of

1990. Submitted by GAO, January 22, 1996.
Environmental Protection Agency: Draft final rule which defines the obligations of pesticide registrants under section 6(a)(2) of FIFRA to report to EPA information indicating their products may cause unreasonable adverse effects, required by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. Submitted by EPA, January 22, 1996.

Food Stamp Program: Monthly expenditure for October 1995, and cumulative totals for fiscal year 1996 through September, required by section 18 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, and P.L. 104–37, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996. Submitted by USDA, January 24, 1996.

USDA: Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act Report for FY 1995, required by the FMFIA. Submitted by USDA, January 25,

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of Lithuania, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, January 29, 1996.

Food and Consumer Service: Report on Impact on Retail Food Stores, required by section 206 of P.L. 102–115, the Food Stamp Program Improvements Act of 1994. Submitted by USDA, January

General Accounting Office: Reports and Testimony: December 1995 (GAO/OPA-96-3), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO,

January 1996.

General Accounting Office: Financial Institutions and Market Issue Area Active Assignments (GAO/AA-96-6(1)), pursuant to re-

quest. Submitted by GAO, January 1996.
USDA and HHS: Third Report on Nutrition Monitoring in the United States, required by National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990, P.L. 101-445. Submitted by USDA, February 5, 1996.

Office of Inspector General: Evaluation Report on Legislative Proposals to Strengthen the Rural Housing Service's Rural Renting Program, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted

by USDA, February 6, 1996.

Congressional Budget Office: Intergovernmental Mandate Statement for Bills on the House Calendar as of January 23, 1996, required by Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995, P.L. 104-4. Submitted by CBO, February 8, 1996.

Council for Agricultural Science and Technology: Quality of U.S. Agricultural Products, pursuant to request. Submitted by CAST,

February 12, 1996.

Office of Inspector General: Farm Service Agency Evaluation of Section 8(e) Contract Report No. 03099–2–FM, pursuant to request. Submitted by USDA, February 16, 1996.

Food and Consumer Service: Nutrition and Food Security in the Food Stamp Program, January 1996, pursuant to agreed upon over-

sight procedures. Submitted by USDA, February 20, 1996.

Agricultural Marketing Service: Notice of request under Freedom of Information Act for current lists of growers covered by the Federal marketing orders for almonds and peaches grown in California, required by section 1663 of the Food Security Act of 1985, amending the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937. Submitted by USDA, February 26, 1996.

General Accounting Office: Analysis of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Costs and Benefits (GAO/RCED-96-62R), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, February 29, 1996.

Food and Consumer Service: State Automation Systems Study, Volumes I and II, December, 1995, required by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, P.L. 101–624. Submitted by USDA, February 29, 1996.

Food Stamp Program: Monthly expenditures for December 1995 and cumulative totals for fiscal year 1996 through December, required by section 18 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, and P.L. 104–37, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996. Submitted by USDA, March 13, 1996.

EPA: Analysis of Congressional Research Service American Law Division Report on the "burden of proof" regarding pesticide cancellation proceedings under H.R. 1627, pursuant to request. Submitted by EPA, March 14, 1996.

USDA: Summary of proposed purchase for Nantahala National Forest, North Carolina, required by section 17(b) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, P.L. 94–588. Submitted by USDA,

March 15, 1996.

USDA: Summary of proposed exchange for Superior National Forest, Minnesota, and Pisgah National Forest and Nanatahala National Forest, North Carolina, required by section 17(b) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, P.L. 94–588. Submitted by USDA, March 15, 1996.

USDA: Summary of proposed land purchases for the Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri, and the Sumter National Forest, South Carolina, required by section 17(b) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, P.L. 94–588. Submitted by USDA, March 17, 1996.

USDA: Summary of proposed land purchases for the Shawnee National Forest, Illinois, and the White Mountain National Forest, New Hampshire, required by section 17(b) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, P.L. 94–588. Submitted by USDA, March 17, 1996.

Executive Office of the President: Budget of the United States Government, fiscal year 1997, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by EOB, March 19, 1996.

Food Safety: New Initiatives Would Fundamentally Alter the Existing System (GAO/RCED-96-81), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, March 27, 1996.

Emergency Disaster Farm Loans: Government's Financial Risk Could Be Reduced (GAO/RCED-96-80), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, March 29, 1996.

Agricultural Research: Information on Research System and USDA's Priority Setting (GAO/RCED-96-92), pursuant to request.

Submitted by GAO, March 28, 1996.

Charter: Renewal for a 2-year period the Environmental Financial Advisory Board, required by P.L. 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Submitted by EPA, March 29, 1996.

Charter: Renewal of the National Advisory Committee for Tobacco Inspection Services, required by P.L. 92-463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Submitted by USDA, March 29, 1996.

General Accounting Office: Reports and Testimony: February 1996 (GAO/OPA-96-5), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, March 1996.

Farm Service Agency: Agricultural Conservation Program, 1995 fiscal year Statistical Summary, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, March 1996.

Economic Research Service: Wheat Yearbook, February 1996, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by

USDA, March 1996.

Farm Credit Administration: Staffing plan for FCA, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by FCA, April 2, 1996.

USDA: Statistical summaries on the end use identification program for imported flue-cured and burley tobacco, required by section 1166 of the Food Security Act of 1985. Submitted by USDA, April 4, 1996.

USDA: Options Pilot Program, 1993, 1994, and 1995. Report To Congress, mandated by the 1990 Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act, as amended. Submitted by USDA, April 10, 1996.

Office of Inspector General: Audit Reports on Improper Handling of Loans in Texas and Farm Service Agency-Texas Agricultural Mediation Program, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by April 15, 1996.

Food Stamp Program: Monthly expenditure for January 1996, and cumulative totals for fiscal year 1996 through January, reguired by section 18 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, and P.L. 104-37, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996. Submitted by USDA, April 23, 1996.

General Accounting Office: Rebuttal to the Cotton Council (GAO/ RCED-95-107), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, April 24, 1996. General Accounting Office: Abstracts of Reports and Testimony, fiscal year 1995 (GAO/OIMC/OPA-96-1A), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, April 1996.

General Accounting Office: Indexes for Abstracts of Reports and Testimony, fiscal year 1995 (GAO/OIMC/OPA-96-1A), pursuant to

request. Submitted by GAO, April 1996.

General Accounting Office: How States Establish and Apply Environmental Standards When Cleaning Up Sites—Superfund (GAO/ RCED-96-70FS), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, April 1996.

Economic Research Service: Foreign Agricultural Trade of the United States (FATUS), January/February/March 1996, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, April 1996.

Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute: FAPRI 1996 Baseline Briefing Paper, May 1996, pursuant to request. Submitted by FAPRI, May 6, 1996.

Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute: FAPRI International Agricultural Highlights, pursuant to request. Submitted

by FAPRI, May 6, 1996.

Agricultural and Food Policy Center: Representative Farms Economic Outlook, FAPRI/AFPC April 1996 Baseline. Submitted by AFPC, May 6, 1996.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of El Salvador, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by

USDA, May 8, 1996.

Food Stamp Program: Monthly expenditure for February 1996, and cumulative totals for fiscal year 1996 through February, required by section 18 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, and P.L. 104–37, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996. Submitted by USDA, May 8, 1996.

USDA: Rural Housing Service Organizational Chart, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, May 22,

1996.

Environmental Protection Agency: Draft proposed and draft final rule which would amend EPA's notification and non-notification procedures for certain pesticide registration modifications under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), required by FIFRA. Submitted by EPA, May 22, 1996.

Department of Energy: Report of the Office of Alcohol Fuels, required by section 218, P.L. 96–294. Submitted by DOE, May 22,

1996.

Charters: National Nutrition Monitoring Advisory Council and the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods, required by P.L. 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Submitted by USDA, May 23, 1996.

Environmental Protection Agency: Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress and Management's Semiannual Report to Congress on Audits, required by the Inspector General Act Amendment of 1988, P.L. 100–504. Submitted by EPA, May 23, 1996.

Commodity Futures Trading Commission: Semiannual Report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 1995 through March 31, 1996, required by section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, P.L. 95–452. Submitted by CFTC, May 30, 1996.

General Accounting Office: Financial Institutions and Markets Issue Area Plans, fiscal years 1997–98 (GAO/IAP–96–11), pursuant

to request. Submitted by GAO, May 1996.

USDA: Summary of the proposed land exchange for the Tahoe National Forest, California, required by section 17(b) of the Na-

tional Forest Management Act of 1976, P.L. 94–588. Submitted by USDA, June 4, 1996.

USDA: Report of USDA Advisory Committee on Agricultural Concentration, Concentration in Agriculture, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, June 6, 1996.

Food Stamp Program: Monthly expenditure for March 1996, and cumulative totals for fiscal year 1996 through March, as required by section 18 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, and P.L. 104–37, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996. Submitted by USDA, June 6, 1996.

General Accounting Office: Analysis of USDA's Budgets, fiscal years 1996–97 (GAO/RCED–96–182R), pursuant to agreed upon

oversight procedures. Submitted by GAO, June 7, 1996.

Office of the Vice President: Draft legislation to provide the authorities needed to implement the Administration's comprehensive plan to restore and protect the Everglades ecosystem, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by Office of the Vice President, June 11, 1996.
USDA: Plans for construction of USDA Office Facility on 45–acre

site south of Sunnyside Avenue between Rhode Island Avenue and Edmonston Road in Beltsville, Maryland, pursuant to agreed upon

oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, June 12, 1996.

General Accounting Office: Rural Development: Steps Towards Realizing the Potential of Telecommunications Technologies (GAO/ RCED-96-155), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, June 14,

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of El Salvador, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by June 14, 1996.

General Accounting Office: Federal Reserve System: Current and Future Challenges Require System-wide Attention (GAO/GGD-96-128), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, June 17, 1996.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of Moldova, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, June 17, 1996.

General Accounting Office: Water Quality: A Catalog of Related Federal Programs (GAO/RCED-96-173), pursuant to agreed upon

oversight procedures. Submitted by GAO, June 19, 1996.

Environmental Protection Agency: Establishment Antimicrobial Division (AD) within Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances (OPPTS), pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by EPA, June 19, 1996.

General Accounting Office: Canada, Australia, and New Zealand: Potential Ability of Agricultural State Trading Enterprises to Distort Trade, pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, June 24, 1996.

Food Stamp Program: Official payment error rate for States for FY 1995, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, June 26, 1996.

Federal Land Management: Streamlining and Reorganization Issues (GAO/T-RCED-96-209), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, June 27, 1996.

USDA: Report on the Administration of the February 1996 Referendum on the Sheep and Wool Promotion, Research, Education and Information Program issued jointly by the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Farm Service Agency, and the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, June 27, 1996.

Budget Issues: Inventory of Accounts with Spending Authority and Permanent Appropriations, 1996 (FAO/AIMD-96-79), pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, June 1996.

General Accounting Office: Food and Agriculture Issue Area Plan, fiscal years 1997–99 (GAO/IAP–96–20), pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by GAO, June 1996.

Food Stamp Program: Monthly expenditure for April 1996, and

cumulative totals for fiscal year 1996 through April, as required by section 18 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, and P.L. 104-37, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996. Submitted by USDA, July 2, 1996.

Food Stamp Program: Characteristics of Food Stamp Households: Summer 1994, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Sub-

mitted by USDA, July 3, 1996.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Data on production, trade, inspections and prices of fresh fruits and vegetables, processed citrus, and cut flowers, required by section 321(e) of the North American Free-Trade Agreement Implementation Act of 1993. Submitted by USDA, July 5, 1996.

Forest Service: Summary of proposed land exchange for Sequoia National Forest, required by section 17(b) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, P.L. 94–588, as amended. Submitted by

USDA, July 29, 1996.

Food Safety Inspection Service: Final Rule, Pathogen Reduction: Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, July 1996.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Review of Canadian Support Programs for the Potato Sector Staff Paper, pursuant to request. Sub-

mitted by USDA, July 1996.

Commodity Credit Corporation: Annual Report for fiscal year 1994, required by the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act of 1948, as amended. Submitted by USDA, July 1996.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the government of El Salvador, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, August 6, 1996.

USDA: Summary of proposed purchase for Angeles National Forest, California, required by section 17(b) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, P.L. 94-588. Submitted by USDA, Au-

gust 6, 1996.

USDA: Finding and Authorization of Secretary Dan Glickman on the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact, required by section 147, Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (FAIR ACT). Submitted by USDA, August 8, 1996.

American Crop Protection Association: Briefing materials for Food Quality Protection Act of 1996, pursuant to request. Submit-

ted by ACPA, August 22, 1996.

USDA: Annual report on secondary markets, required by section 711 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, amending the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act. Submitted by USDA, August 23, 1996.

USDA: Horse Protection Enforcement Act Report, required by the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1821–1831). Submitted by USDA,

August 23, 1996.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title 1, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of the Congo, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, August 26, 1996.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title 1, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of the Congo, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted

by USDA, August 26, 1996.

Economic Research Service: Vegetables and Specialties Situation and Outlook Yearbook, July 1996, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, August, 1996.

Economic Research Service: Agricultural Income and Finance Situation and Outlook Report, June 1996, pursuant to agreed upon

oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, August, 1996.

Forest Service: Summary of proposed exchange for Homochitto National Forest, Mississippi, required by section 17(b) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, P.L. 94-558. Submitted by USDA, September 4, 1996.

Forest Service: Summary of proposed exchange for Coeur d'Alene and Kaniksu National Forests, ID, required by section 17(b) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, P.L. 94–558. Submitted

by USDA, September 9, 1996.

USDA: Departmental Regulation establishing National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, required by section 1408, the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 as amended by section 802 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996. Submitted by USDA, September 11, 1996.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of Title I, Public Law 480 concessional sales agreement with the Government of Jordon, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA,

September 12, 1996.

USDA: Audit of Food and Consumer Service's fiscal year 1995 Financial Statements, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures.

Submitted by USDA, September 12, 1996.

Charter: Renewal of the National Advisory Committee (NAC) to the U.S. Government Representative to the North American Commission on Environmental Cooperation, required by P.L. 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Submitted by EPA, September 12, 1996.

Food Stamp Program: Monthly expenditure for June 1996, and cumulative totals for fiscal year 1996 through June, as required by section 18 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, and P.L. 104-37, The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996. Sub-

mitted by USDA, September 18, 1996.

Environmental Protection Agency: Letter forwarding materials regarding implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996, pursuant to agreed upon procedures. Submitted by EPA, Sep-

tember 18, 1996.

U.S. Office of the Special Counsel: Transmittal of USDA report setting forth findings and conclusions of a review of the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, National Interagency Fire Center, Boise, ID, as required by 5 U.S.C., section 1213(e)(3). Submitted by OSC, September 24, 1996.

USDA: fiscal year 1997 Buyout Strategic Plan, required by P.L. 104-37, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996. Sub-

mitted by USDA, September 27, 1996.

Charter: Renewal of Gulf of Mexico Program Policy Review Board, required by P.L. 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee

Act. Submitted by EPA, September 30, 1996.
Economic Research Service: Farm Business Economics Report, 1994, August 1996, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, September, 1996.

Economic Research Service: Sugar and Sweetener Situation and Outlook Report, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures.

Submitted by USDA, September, 1996.

USDA: Summary of proposed land exchange for the Hoosier National Forest, Indiana, required by section 17(b) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, P.L. 94-588. Submitted by USDA, September, 1996.

USDA: Annual Issue 1996 Products and Services from ERS— NASS, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, September, 1996.

International Environment: U.S. funding of Environmental Programs and Activities, pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, Sep-

tember, 1996.

GAO: Terms of work for report on how USDA's Farm Service Agency ensures that minority farmers are treated fairly, required by section 305, P.L. 103-354, Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994. Submitted by GAO, October 1, 1996.

National Research Council: Board of Agriculture's Report Colleges of Agriculture at the Land Grant Universities: Public Service and Public Policy, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by National Academy of Sciences, October 11, 1996.

USDA: Revised Charter for the Task Force on Agricultural Air Quality Research, required by P.L. 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Submitted by USDA, October 2, 1996.

Charter: Renewal of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and

Rodenticide (FIFRA) Scientific Advisory Panel, required by P.L. 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Submitted by EPA, October 25, 1996.

General Accounting Office: Report on a major rule promulgated by USDA entitled Food Stamp Program: Child Support Deduction, required by section 801(a)(2) of title 5, United States Code. Submitted by GAO, October 31, 1996.

Commodity Futures Trading Commission: Periodic Report on Exchange Towards Compliance with the Heightened Audit Trail Standards, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by CFTC, November 1, 1996.

Financial Derivatives: Actions taken of Proposed since May, 1994, pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, November 1, 1996.

USDA: Summary of proposed land purchase for the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia, required by section 17(b) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976. P.L. 94–588. Submitted by USDA, November 5, 1996.

Food Stamp Program: Monthly expenditure for July 1996, and cumulative totals for fiscal year 1996 through July, as required by section 18 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, and P.L. 104–37, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996. Submitted by USDA, November 6, 1996.

USDA: Summary of proposed land exchange for the Bankhead and Talladega National Forests, Alabama, and Siuslaw National Forest, Oregon, required by section 17(b) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, P.L. 94–588. Submitted by USDA, November 8, 1996.

Charter: Renewal of the Risk Assessment and Management Commission, required by P.L. 92–462, the Federal Advisory Committee

Act. Submitted by EPA, November 15, 1996.

USDA: Final rule to amend Food Stamp Program regulations entitled Alaska, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and Demonstration Projects. Submitted by USDA November 15, 1996.

USDA: Information Technology Investments Moratorium Memo-

randum. Submitted by USDA November 20, 1996.

Charter: Establishment of Endocrine Disruptor Screening and Testing Advisory Committee (EDSTAC), required by P.L. 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Submitted by EPA, November 20, 1996.

USDA: Characteristics of Food Stamp Households: Fiscal Year 1995 (Advance Report), pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, November 1996.

Economic Research Service: Vegetables and Specialties Situation and Outlook Report, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, November 1996.

General Accounting Office: Reports and Testimony: October 1996,

pursuant to request. Submitted by GAO, November, 1996.

USDA: Summary of proposed land purchase for the Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri, and the Hoosier National Forest, Indiana, required by section 17(b) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, P.L. 94-588. Submitted by USDA, December 3, 1996.

Commodity Futures Trading Commission: London Communique on Supervision of Commodity Futures Markets, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by CFTC. December 9, 1996.

Foreign Agricultural Service: Summary of title I, Public law 480 concessional sales agreement with Government of Guyana, pursuant to agreed oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, December 10, 1996.

USDA Letter advising of funding for Nutrition, Education, and training (NET) programs, pursuant to agreed upon oversight procedures. Submitted by USDA, Deccember 11, 1996.

USDA: Interagency Salvage Program Review (third 6-month report), required by P.L. 104–19, fiscal year 1995 Rescission Act. Submitted by USDA, December, 1996±.

## E. MEMORIALS

68—Memorial of the Senate of the State of Hawaii, relative to urging the United States Congress to renew the highly successful U.S. Sugar Program in the 1995 farm bill.

69—May 9, 1995; Memorial of the Senate of the State of Hawaii, relative to urging the United States Congress to renew the highly

successful U.S. Sugar Program in the 1995 farm bill.

80—May 12, 1995; Memorial of the Legislature of the State of New Hampshire, relative to recommendations of the Northern Forest Lands Council.

83—May 17, 1995; Memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to an integrated pest management control program to prevent the spread of the Brown Tree Snake.

84—May 17, 1995; Memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to urging the United States Department of Agriculture to consider the effect of and exclude the State of Hawaii from Federal legislation that would have a detrimental impact on Hawaii's environment.

85—May 17, 1995; Memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to urging the U.S. Department of Agriculture to exclude Hawaii from any Federal legislation that would create /exceptions from the Honeybee Act of 1922, as amended.

102—June 6, 1995; Memorial of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to urging Congress to reauthorize the Farms for the Future Program with amendments to increase the effectiveness of the program.

112—June 15, 1995; Memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Colorado, relative to the reauthorization of the Conservation Program Improvements Act.

116—June 22, 1995; Memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to Federal supported sugar programs.

149—August 4, 1995; Memorial of the Senate of the State of Texas, relative to the Food Stamp Program.

197—January 24, 1996; Memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Maine, relative to memorializing the Congress of the United States to repeal Federal laws and rules linking food stamp eligibility with heating assistance.

208—March 14, 1996; Memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, relative to the control or eradication of nonnative noxious weeds in the State of Washington.

218—May 1, 1996; Memorial of the Senate of the State of Louisiana, relative to the transfer of certain portions of the lands of the Kisatchie National Forest to the Fort Polk military base.

## F. PETITIONS

34 August 4, 1995 Petition of the mayor of the City of Gonzales,

LA, relative to Federal support programs for sugar.

35 September 6, 1995 Petition of the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury, Marksville, LA, relative to Federal support programs for

38 September 8, 1995 Petition of the Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce, Louisiana, relative to Federal support programs for

50 December 21, 1995 Petition of the Plumas County Board of Supervisors, Plumas County, CA, relative to the 1995 holiday tree

of America.

76 July 11, 1996 Petition of J. Moseley, M.L. Edwards, F.E. Barnett, I.M. Allen, et al., citizens of various counties throughout California, relative to H.R. 2745, a bill to repeal the emergency salvage timber sale program enacted as part of Public Law 104–19.

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